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**D7167(L) Letter and Diary of J.W. Mundy**

**Transcribed by L Fredericks, Volunteer at the State Library of SA, 2005**

These transcripts use the spelling and punctuation as written.

**Letter written by J.W. Mundy to his parents.**

Pte J.W.M. 2356  
D. Coy. 16th Batt.  
4th Brigade  
Egypt

Ismailia  
Jan 1st 1916

Dear Mother, Father,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still on top. I expect you have heard long before this that Gallipoli was evacuated and I expect you were a bit excited but there was no need for it as the Turks were well sucked in. They started going away in small batches on the 18th of Dec and on the 20th Peninsula was deserted. None of the Lincoln lads were touched. (in fact there was only 6 casualties altogether,) Scottie Ned, C.E. Foster, left at 9 O'clock at night on the 19th, and this little darkie was one of the last to leave our so hardly won Position's, there was four men and six N.C.O.'s picked out to stay until last. (and I was one of the four men) well after 10 o'clock there was only the 10 of us holding the whole of our lines, it was a nerve racking job waiting for the time specific for us to leave, the last of the Machine Gunners left at half Past One, on the morning of the 20th and last half hour seemed like a day to us, well at last the time came, (5 minutes past two,) we filed out of our trenches and fell in two deep and comenced our three mile march to the beach, we could still hear the Turks firing away all the way down to the beach, we were on board our boat at 10 to 3, and there was not even one shell fired at us, I'll bet Jacko got the suprise of his life at daylight that morning when he found we were gone, we went to Lemnos Island then and stayed there until the 26th of Dec, we then left for Alexandria, we arived there on the 29th and came right across Egypt that night to Ismailia, all the Australian troops seem to be congregating around along the Suez Canal I believe the Turks are building a railway across from Turkey so there will be a bit of a skirm here before long, well Mother I hope you receive this letter as it is now three weeks since I wrote last and you will wonder what's wrong if you don't get this, tell Edgar and Blanche & Daisy that I will write to them again as soon as Possible, and tell Slip to drop a line. we got our Billies at Lemnos they were just the thing, I never got any the Parcel that Daisy said she sent, it was a cake I think, I hope to goodness I am home again before next Exmas for dinner, well Mother give my love to all and lots of x for yourself I am your loving Son Jim x x x x

Pte J.W.M. 2356 4th Brigade  
16th Batt D.Coy Egypt

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## Diary of J.W. Mundy

The first section is written starting at the front of the book, the second starting from the back.

This Pocket Book was Purchased in Alexandria on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1916. by  
No 2356. Pte. J.W. Mundy.  
D.Coy. 16<sup>th</sup> Batt.  
4<sup>th</sup> Brigade.  
4<sup>th</sup> Division.  
Aust. Imp. Forces.  
Enlisted at Keswick Barracks March 31<sup>st</sup> 1915.  
Sailed for Service abroad June 24<sup>th</sup> 1915, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Rf's for 16<sup>th</sup> Batt.

J.W. Mundy  
Edinburgh. Street.  
Pt. Lincoln.  
West. Coast.  
South. Aust.

This is just a few of my experience's, and the dates of arivals at diferent places, (also the departures,) I do not think it nesacery to state any of my doing's on Gallipoli or Lemnos or Egypt, here, as I think I forwarded all the notes to you, that I may require to refresh my memory. if ever I get back, and if I do get back, I may not have a memory to refresh.

I

Egypt. June 1<sup>st</sup> 1916.

Left Serapeum May 30 by train to Alexandria Boarded the Troopship Canada June 1<sup>st</sup> sailed for France June 2<sup>nd</sup> uneventful voyage arived Marsaille June 7<sup>th</sup> Landed and entrained 8<sup>th</sup> sixty four hours train journey; lovely cenery, disentrained at Bailluel 10<sup>th</sup> marched to Stunwerk 11<sup>th</sup> marched to Jesus Farm

I

We sighted the African Coast on June 4<sup>th</sup>. had a Submarine alarm June 5<sup>th</sup> just to see that we all knew our stations I was gward over No 10 boat. the Machine guns were barking all around the ship. and it being a nice sunny. and balm day. that if there was a Submarine within 10 miles of us. I<sup>ll</sup> bet they heard the row of those Machine guns.

II

on 15<sup>th</sup> 7 kilometres. marched to trenches through Erquingham past Armentius, into trenches at Bois Grenier on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

July 1<sup>st</sup> I returned to Elepenett Corner on trafic control, July 8<sup>th</sup> joined Batt at Jesus Farm, spelled for 24<sup>hrs</sup> marched to Stunwerk July 10<sup>th</sup>, entrained at Bailuel 13<sup>th</sup> for Somme front

II

Fatigue at Doulens. It was a rotten job unloading Amunition Wagons and the whole of the Division's Artilary. to say nothing of the Pontoons on their timbers, we worked 8 hours on and eight hours off. 2 platoons on duty at a time, we could get refreshments at the station at all hours of the night the proceeds were in aid of the French Red Cross. it is a very pretty town. has

### III

arriving at Doullens 14<sup>th</sup>, D. Coy on Division fatigue marched and joined Batt. at St. Owen 25 k<sup>m</sup> on 17<sup>th</sup> St Owen is very old town. large factories, left St Owen July 19<sup>th</sup> for Noaurs, 32 k<sup>m</sup> Noaurs is a small Village lying in a hollow inhabitants on rations. could hear heavy gun fire 17 k<sup>m</sup> distant, Noaurs noted for underground

### III

A nice little River running through the outskirts of the town. on the Hill at the back of the town is a great big Monastery with walls about 50 ft high all around it. there is supposed to be an underground passage from there to the town of Amiens 28 kilometres distant, it was turned into a British Hospital shortly after the start of the retreat from Mons

### IIII

Caves, left Noaurs for Warloy, in two stages, stayed two days at Tootencourt, arriving at Warloy on the July, 26<sup>th</sup>, gunfire very distinct, now only 9 k<sup>m</sup> distant, left Warloy for Albert Aug 1<sup>st</sup> camped in open in rain and under shell fire for 2 days (Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>) at 11 AM Aug 4<sup>th</sup> ordered to support 48<sup>th</sup> Batt, but order was cancelled until

### IV

Underground Caves at Naours.

The entrance to them is on the North West side of the town. the Caves extend for about half a mile. there are about a dozen chambers, some race of people were supposed to live in them years ago. the walls are all worn very smooth to a height of about four ft. there are a few graves of travelers who have been

### IIIII

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> we then went on Fatigue for 48<sup>th</sup> Batt. Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion ordered to move into front line trenches, 15<sup>th</sup> Batt in support. cant describe the following 48<sup>th</sup> hours, I found myself in a rest Camp at Halencourt on the 9<sup>th</sup>. I reported fit for duty Aug 10<sup>th</sup> but was not permitted to join Batt till Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. Brigade rested for 15 days

### V

killed there by falls of rock. there are a few statues in the chambers that are close to the surface. the funny part is that the wind fairly whistles down through cracks in the walls. of course that's only in places, but the air down in the bottom chamber is quite pure, and it must be a good 200 ft down from the surface. the Bells in the Village Church tolled every night at 12 o'clock, for the week that we were there.

### V1

Brigade ordered to move to firing line again Aug 29<sup>th</sup> occupied trenches from Moquet Farm extending right, Artillery fire not half as intense. as first time in. after being buried 3 times I was evacuated with Shell Shock, joined Batt again at Albert, found Ned reported missing, 32<sup>nd</sup> made enquiries but noone knew anything

### V1

The Albert Statue.

The houses round the church are all battered about. and the church is practically ready to fall down. but the statue still hangs over the St. at an angle of about 75 degree's, it has been fastened in position by engineers. to prevent it falling. some say it was done by Aust. Engineers but I think myself that it was Frenchmen, close to the Church is a 15 inch Naval gun, on a railway truck

V11

of him. the last time he was seen, he was bringing a machine gun back from Fritz's trenches at Moquett Farm, Brigade marched for Doulens [Doullens], traveling a diferent route. to the one , used coming from St. Owen [Ouen], entrained at Doulens [Doullens] for Eypres [Ypres] front on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. moved to trenches Sept on the

V11

The way the French farm. used to amuse us at first, but they dont let a thing go to waste. there are not many men working in the fields now. its nearly all women one see's. the horse's they have are beauties. they are not at all like the Aust. draft horse's they are very Clean limbed, some of the dapple greys are real pictures. they only use skim ploughs.

V111

Left of ayser Canal, on the right of the Salient, on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. D, Coy was in suport for C. Coy for 6 days. then we moved to the front line, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. it was fairly quiet, after the Somme plenty of Ariel Torpedoes and rum jars, but very little Artilary during my stay there, I was wounded on the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept, by one of our own Neubons Rifles Grenade went from Eypres to No 10 C, Clearing Station at Pomperien's

11X

Wounded

I had been looking for a Blighty wound for a long time. but I did<sup>nt</sup> think much of # it. after I had got it. it was very painful for the first day or so. After the operation the Doctor told me it was a marvel I never lost my leg, as the piece of Metal went down between the knuckle of my knee but he got it out alright. and all I am waiting for is my turn for the Boat to England.

1X

had my first operation on the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. next on the 4<sup>th</sup> Oct., entrained 5<sup>th</sup> for Bolou<sup>n</sup>ge, stayed there for three days. was put aboard the Hospital Ship Panama Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. Landed at Southampton 9<sup>th</sup> and entrained there for Clapham Junction, went from there to the 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital at Wandsworth, by, A, Car, ariving ~~at~~ at 3<sup>rd</sup> L.G.H, 2 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. left 3<sup>rd</sup> L. 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. for Southall. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust, Aux Hospital,

1X

3<sup>rd</sup> L. G. H.

My time there was spent very agreeably considering the conditions. the Nurses and Sisters in A. 1. Ward. were very good. at any rate I think so. of course they have diferent temperments. to Australian Sisters. I was in A11 Ward at Pomperiens. A111 at Bolouge, A1. 3<sup>rd</sup> L.G.H. A. and B at Southall. And 86 Hut at Weymouth.

X1

on a black Maria. was presented with a pair of crutches 26<sup>th</sup>. Met ~~Nurse~~ Sister Walker on the 29<sup>th</sup>. left Southall for Weymouth on the Dec 12<sup>th</sup> was boarded Dec 16<sup>th</sup> booked for six months Australia, had a great turnout on the 23<sup>rd</sup> instead of exmas day. was a bit better than last exmas at Lemnos. when we had boiled rice. no sugar,(and burnt, black tea, and a tin of bully, plenty of (Leathirs,) for Biscuits,

X.

Menu. For

Exmas dinner.

Turkey.

Ham.  
Green Peas.  
Roast Potatoes.  
Parsnips.  
Cabbage.  
Sauce  
Sweets.  
Plum Pudding.  
White Sauce.  
Brazil Nuts Monkey Nuts.  
Oranges, Apples, Bananas.

Beer, Lemonade.

Private Graham had the Privilege of saying Grace.

### X1

xmas dinner.

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> had a splendid day today. got our presents in the morning, had a Bonza Dinner. there was a good Concert in the Y.M.C.A. in the afternoon, the following is a list of the things in our xmas Boxes.

5 Pks cigarettes

1 tin Captan Tobacco

1 Pk Cards

Writing Paper and envelopes

recieved word to say the £10 had arived 26<sup>th</sup> Dec.

M<sup>iss</sup> R. Rollins.  
50<sup>A</sup> Waldron Rd.  
Earlsfield S.W.

M<sup>iss</sup> G-A. George.  
10 Union. St.  
Luton. Bedford

M<sup>rs</sup> Mitchell  
Ivanhoe House  
Farly .Rd.  
Luton  
Bedfordshire.

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> I recieved a Dozen letters from Aust today. one from H.L.Brougham dated Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. two from Mother Oct 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> one from Blanche. one from Daisy both dated Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. one from Jindera A.S.W. From E. Sanders. Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. Flo Heath dated Oct 14<sup>th</sup> N. Lock – Oct 17<sup>th</sup>. I also recieved a couple of xmas cards from ~~the~~ Friends whose adresses are on oposite leaf. there were a few more but I will not mention their names here.

I never recieved any of the Parcels that were sent me for Xmas. but I expect C. Foster got them at the Batt so I<sup>ll</sup> bet he had a good time. Dec 29<sup>th</sup> I aplied for Furlough today. Jan 1<sup>st</sup> started the New Year by getting my Furlough granted so I will be off to Luton Via London I<sup>ll</sup> have to stop there one day. to draw my ration money £1 .2 .0 so I<sup>ll</sup> be off to Luton on Wednesday.  
I left Weymouth at 2,5 P.M

The train service here is the best I<sup>ve</sup> seen yet. there is no small gauges here. and the Country that I have travelled through so far. has been flat. so the train's travel at a pretty fair speed. I should guess about between 50 – 60 miles an hour. especially the expresses I<sup>ll</sup> bet they do there 60 miles an hour alright. We were on an express coming down here from Southall. and only stopped at three stations on the line. it was a good ride.

On Tues. Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> for Waterloo Stn. London. ariving there at 7.30 I stayed the night at the Union Jack Club, I caught the 8.55 AM train for Luton Wed morning ariving at 10.30 AM. the people. I am staying with are very good to me. it almost makes one think he is home. I met the manager of the Palace on Wed evening Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>

29<sup>th</sup>

We had a lovely concert in the Gym – here last night, a party from the Theatre in Weymouth came out at 3-30 PM 29<sup>th</sup> it was the best I have seen or rather heard in England yet, the comedien was O.K. and I think that is half the concert, there was a couple of cinemetograph pictures to fill the gaps. so there would be no waiting. it was a roton day. a drizly rain. I expect It will snow before morning.

he is a N.Z. he has been in England for 29 years. I shall be extremely sorry when my furlough is finished and I have to return to Weymouth to wait for a boat home. I am going to spend Monday afternoon with M<sup>r</sup>, Lyons. Tues, I am going for a motor ride with M<sup>rs</sup> Bell. & M<sup>rs</sup> Mitchell. I think I will go to the theatre to night (Sat.) I returned to London Via St Pancras

Station. Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Stayed the night at the Union Jack Club, and then caught the 9.35 train at Waterloo Stn on Tuesday morning ariving at Weymouth at a quarter Past two P.M. Boat Roll was called on the 9<sup>th</sup> Feb and we entrained for Plymouth at 9.30. ariving at 2-30 PM. boarded the Troopship Benalla 3.PM. and are expecting to sail in the morning.

Steamed out to plymouth Sounds at 5PM 12<sup>th</sup> and started for Aust. Via the Cape 9PM. had an escort of two Destroyers for the first two days and then the destroyers left us and an Auxillary Cruiser took the lead, four other Troopships caught us up and ~~we~~ they are now all lined up in two rows. with the Cruiser leading,

16

we are starting to get warmer Weather now we must be getting near the tropics, we are all looking forward to getting sunburnt again when we do reach the hot Climate again, 20<sup>th</sup> Tues. we are now in the Tropics and after the cold weather we had in England, we notice the heat, I expect

that by the time we reach home we will be as brown as berries again. saw a bonza shark today very red it must have been thirty feet long, we are still taking a zig zag course so I dont suppose we are quite clear of Sub's yet, Auziliary Cruiser is still with us, she is a P & O Liner carrying four six inch and 2 4 inch guns,

21<sup>st</sup> we are expecting to cross the line again on Saturday but we will not have a bath this time as there is too many cripples on board. 22<sup>nd</sup> very hot today but cooled off towards evening. are now steering a straight course. those waters must be full of sharks as we saw three more this afternoon. 23<sup>rd</sup> we sighted land at daylight and at 10'30 AM

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we dropped anchor in the harbour. at Freetown the Capital of the British Colony. Sierr Leone. Freetown has a population of 75,572 but only 650 Whites the Colonies population is 1,527,560 (this is taken from Whitmakers Almanac of 1916, there is plenty of Bananas, Oranges & Mangels here the Natives bring them out to us in there canoes cut out of logs, it is very hot, but what with

the palmtrees and others the place looks lovely, the houses come down to the waters edge, and. in fact the place looks beautiful, well our next place of call is Capetown, we are now 3,078 miles from Liverpool so in another fortnight we will have the biggest part of our journey done. I must say that I get a bit homesick at times as we have only been trave ing.

H.G.Squires  
54 Chobham St  
Luton

Addie George  
18 Union Street  
Luton

Mona George,  
18, Union Street,  
Luton,  
Beds

M<sup>rs</sup> M George  
18 Union St  
Luton

Margaret. J. George  
Vaux Hall Motors  
Kempton Road  
Luton  
Beds

Harry I Sell  
Ivanhoe  
Farley Hill  
Luton

Lilian D G Mitchell  
Ivanhoe  
Farley Rd  
Luton

M<sup>r</sup> H.A.Norman.  
c/o Port. A. Post. Office  
Port. Adelaide  
South. Aust.

Miss Violette. Morris  
Beach Tea Rooms  
Camp's Bay  
Cape Town

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South Africa

L. Lyons  
Palace Theatre  
Luton

Thomas. Roberts  
Castle St  
Luton  
Beds

John a. Plummer  
21 Gurry Park R<sup>d</sup>  
Luton Beds

Aubrey L Roberts  
32 Castle St  
Luton

W.E.Oughton  
93, Liddell Gardens  
Kensal Rise  
London, N.W.

Marjorie Roberts  
32 Castle St  
Luton  
Beds.

Flora Crouch  
44 Bedford St  
Coventry

Miss E. Sanders  
12 Oct 21 Nov22 NP  
Jindera. P.O.N.S.W.  
Miss D.Sanders. P.L. S.A.  
3 Pt 21<sup>st</sup>Nov 24Dec 11<sup>th</sup>  
Miss F. Heath. P.L. S.A.  
NOV 24<sup>th</sup>  
Miss H.L.Brougham, P.L. S.A.  
Spt. 4<sup>th</sup>NOV 18<sup>th</sup>  
Miss D. OConnell. P.L. S.A.  
NOV 18<sup>th</sup>  
Miss M. OConnell. Cleve. S.A.  
SPT 4 22 OCT 18,NOV 6, 19. DEC 12  
Miss N Lock.11 Phillis St. Maylands  
Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 24<sup>th</sup>  
Miss M.L.A. OShea.18 Lockton  
St, North Melbourne. Hc.  
Oct 16Nov 12 22 Dec 14  
Miss E. Stagg. P.L. S.A.  
22 1 AUG 6 SeptNov 10  
Mr A.P. Doolen21 R.P.

Noward. Adelaide.  
Oct 12 Dec 24<sup>th</sup>  
Mrs Clayton. Meppershall  
N , Shefford. Bedfordshire, Eng  
OCT 4<sup>th</sup>  
Mr L.P. Nourse.  
Terowie, S.A.  
OCT 4<sup>th</sup>  
Mrs. S. Nourse  
3 Scott. St.  
Parkside, Adelaide, S.A.  
Oct 4  
Miss A. George. 18 Union St.  
Luton. Bedfordshire.  
18 OCT 26 NOV 22 DEC  
Mrs. G. Mitchell.  
Ivanhoe House. Luton  
Bedfordshire. Eng.  
14, 16 22 30 OCT. 8 15 22 28 NOV 6 10 24 29 Dec  
Miss R. Rollins  
Jan 21<sup>st</sup>  
50<sup>A</sup> Waldron. Rd.  
Earlsfield. S.W. London.  
England.

10 knots an hour and this Boat can do 18, and now that we know that we are on our way home we seem to get impatient but I expect we will soon get over that. (the names of transport are on opposite page,) also there speed's, we are expecting to leave here tomorrow. (and then for a trip ashore at the Cape, haven't been allowed ashore here, but I think we will be allowed to

Miss Brittons  
Lougfield Street.  
Southfields, S.W.  
P.O.  
Marmora Aux Cruiser.  
Benaella troopship P.O.  
Ullissis----- P.O.  
And on the Port side are.  
Ascanius, Ocean S S Ltd  
Alarathen----- ---  
Balmoral Castle,  
M. 18½ KHs Union Castle line.  
B. 44-14½.  
V 14  
A 14  
M 20  
B 17½ Castle line

stretch our legs at Cape-Town. I hope so anyway.) We left Freetown on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 AM. and for the first twelve h<sup>rs</sup> we steamed due West. was beginning to think we were off to America. but the next morning we were heading S.E. and have held that course until 7.30 AM on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March we are now heading 39' E. of South. but as we are now close on 300 Miles West of the African Coast it will be about

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another four days before we are in sight of land and Capetown. the weather is still keeping fine. we had a fine lot of rain on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and it freshened things up abit. the Sun is fairly warm but up to date we have had a nice cool Breeze every day, and as we are now getting farther away from the Equator every day it will soon be getting cooler again, the gunners had

had a bit of practice on the 8<sup>th</sup>, we got a bit out of line of the other Boats. and threw a cask overboard when we were about a mile from it they opened fire with the 4'7. I think the nearest shot of the five was. about 600 yds away from it, so you can bet we are not too keen on sighting a submarine now. it would take them about three weeks to hit it if it was a mile distant.

we seem to be getting away from the sharks now I dont think any have been sighted since we left Freetown, are expecting to get to the Cape on the 13<sup>th</sup> I expect I will be home inside a month from then. 11<sup>th</sup> March, the Cruiser left us for about three hours this morning. she dropped astern at seven oclock we kept steaming. at 9 knotts, it came on to blow and by the time

the Cruiser caught us again there was a nice sea running, it was a great sight watching her steam past us. just as if we were standing still, she would ride one wave and go clean through the next, there are plenty of birds about this morning. Gannetts Mutton Birds, Albertros'es, Petrols, so I geuss and calculate we are getting near the Cape.

Arived at Capetown 13<sup>th</sup> lovely Warfs, we were granted leave on Wed 14<sup>th</sup>. had a look around the Town and then went out to Camps Bay in the afternoon. met Mrs Morris & Daughter Viollette. they came from Adelaide. and were pleased to see me, all hands Broke leave the next day. so of course I went to C. Bay again and got bach at 11.30 P.M. Broke leave

again on the 16<sup>th</sup>. C.B. again were granted leave on the 17<sup>th</sup> C.B. Via Sea Bint. Left Cape Town No 7 Warf at 12 A.M. Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>, so we are now on the last stage of our journey. the weather is still fine although there is a big swell running today, I expect we will get to the west in about 18 – 19 days, well I must say that I had a real good time at the Cape

I was extremely sorry when I had to say goodbye to my friends there. but I expect I will see them again when I am on my way back to Blighty, 4-30 P.M. we are now abreast of the Cape so we have now got a clear run for Australia we ought to be home in another month, 6 PM Table Mountain & the Lions Head are now a bue mist astern

so this is the last sight of Land until we reach the West, 19<sup>th</sup> There are flocks of Ganets and Molly Hawks around us today. they are giving the sardines a lively time there is a fair sea running today. but we are traveling along alright (13½ knots) 20<sup>th</sup> fine big swell an today but it is not too bad as it is dead

ahead, the Cape Town Anzacs are losing there Breakfast today, we picked up 30 of them at the Cape. I forgot to mention the resaviors before, one is right on top of Table Mountain the other is at the foot of the Lions Head, the tram from Camps Bay runs right along its Bank, the Albertroses are still following us, some of them are a terrible size.

they must be fully ten feet across, it is getting awfully cold now as we are getting well down south we are now in 55% Longitude. (that is just as far South as the Coast of New Zealand,) and after just getting out of the tropics we notice the change and are all

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wearing our overcoats, but it will not be long before we have warmer weather again, so we

dont mind a few days cold weather, the Betting is now three to one on Freemantle in fourteen days, so it wont be long now before we are home again, we can hardly realize that we are going home. and dont suppose we will until we are actualy there, 24<sup>th</sup> still having fine weather but still fairly Cold, we are now half way between the

Cape and West Aust – at twelve oclock today we had travelled 2180 miles since leaving the Cape, the Albertrosis are still following us, it is six weeks today since we left Plymouth and we will be onboard this Boat at least another fortnight, perhaps longer. and needless to say we are just about fed up with it, time would not pass so slowly

if we could have lights at night, and without lights we cant have concerts, or even have a smoke, on deck at night, so there is nothing to do in the evenings but read, there is one Lincoln lad here besides myself E, Carr, you can bet we pulled Lincoln to pieces the first night or two we were at sea, 30<sup>th</sup> the weather is still holding fine, and we are averaging 307 miles

a day, all Western. Austlian boys have been warned to be ready by Sunday night to disembark and as there Clothes are to be disinfected on Saturday, so we must be getting into Freemantle Sunday night or early Monday morning. we will not be allowed ashore at Freemantle as the Boat Anchor's in midstream, and the lads go ashore in

Lighters. so we may only be there a couple of hours, and then for Melbourne, we dont call at S. Aust, I expect we will be put in Cattle-trucks again, for our train ride from Melbourne to Adelaide, but as we are used to Cattletrucks now it wont make much diference whether we have padded quishions or hard boards of course oficers travel firstClass. Pte's in the Dog Boxe's

Lily Samways  
7 Clearmont Rd  
Rodwell  
Weymouth

Kate Dike  
241 East Street  
Milborne Port  
Somerset

Olive Newport  
Warmwell  
N Dorchester

A.E.Hunt  
Motor Garage  
Gunnedah  
Northern line  
N.S.W.

we arived at Freemantle at 1. PM. April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tues) and left again at eight oclock. PM. the same night, there was 85 men landed at Freemantle, we were granted leave from 2 P.M. till 6 P.M. it was good to stretch our legs after the last sixteen days on board ship. some of our chaps were a bit happy by the time we got back to the Boat

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but they soon quieted down after the Boat left the Warf. April 4<sup>th</sup> we are now getting close to Cape Luiwin, so we will soon be in the Bite again, one would think we were there now by the swell that is running today, we are going straight to Melbourne and are due to arive there next Tuesday. 10<sup>th</sup> April, so we are nearly to the

end of our journey. of course there is a few hours ride by train. but that will not be so monopolace as this Boat trip, it is eight weeks next Monday since we left Plymouth, and every day now seems to be a week, and as we will be kept busy for the remaining four or five days. I will not be able to have much time for writing, but

then I dont suppose there ~~will~~would be much to write about in any case, and now that you can all follow my movements since leaving Alexandria until I land in Melbourne I dont think you will care to follow me across South. Aust. so I<sup>ll</sup> pull the cord at nine,

Pte J. W. Mundy  
D. Coy, 16<sup>th</sup> Batt  
4<sup>th</sup> Brigade  
A. I. F.  
B.  
57 pages

**Section 2 from the back of the book. This includes poems by Sapper B.G. Winch**

A letter from the Front.

Dear Katie, I must tell you of the life we<sup>re</sup> living here,-  
Tis the queerest sort of life you ever led,-  
There are quiet little moments, when we sit and dream of Beer,-  
And at other times we wonder if we<sup>re</sup> dead,-  
When the Airyoplanes stop buzzing' and the shells quit whistling tunes,-  
And the Lark commences singing in the sky.-

II

'Pon my word it just reminds me of those peaceful afternoons –  
That we used to spend in Athenry.-

We<sup>re</sup> living in a village where the Boschs Biggest gun,-  
Has shattered all the buildings in the place,-  
The Church's alteration's have been greatly overdone,-  
The Public House is lying on its face,-  
The doors and walls and window frames, have

III

Wandered far and wide,-  
They<sup>ll</sup> take a lot of finding by an' by.-  
When the landlord and the agent come to ask us where they are-  
Sure, we<sup>ll</sup> be back again in Athenry.-

Though some may live in houses or in glorious chatoos,-  
The like of them would never cross my mind,-  
I sooin their lofty Battlements and wide extensive views,-

4

And take the lowliest dwelling I can find,-

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---

Tis but a little dug-out, and I pay no rent or toll,-  
And I go in when the shells begin to fly,-  
Then I light me bit of fire, and the smoke goes through a hole,-  
The same as what it does in Athenry,-

Now – if there are any fellahs who are slow to join the fun,-  
And are proping up the corners of the street,-

V  
Just ax them what they<sup>re</sup> going to do when everything is done,-  
When all their ould companions they will meet.-  
For we<sup>ll</sup> have all the glories, and the Stories, and the News,-  
And girls will give us each there gladdest eye,-  
'Pon my soul I wouldn't care to stand in any Slackers shoes,-  
The day that we get back to Athenry,-

6  
I could write a longer letter, but the time is drawing near,-  
When the Canteen calls me in to get a drink,-  
So I close this one at present in the hopes that Katie dear,-  
It will find you as it leaves me, in the Pink,-  
Now dont be lonely, Katie, I<sup>ll</sup> be coming home again,-  
Before the Pigs begin to learn to fly,-  
Wed our seperation money we will both be right as rain –  
If you haven't spent it all in Athenry,-  
A,B,C,

---

I  
Somewhere in France

Somewhere in France we are happy,-  
Still thinking of those dear at home.-  
Fighting our Country's great Battle,-  
Mudstained like Pack Mules we roam,-  
Somewhere in France a fierce Battle rages,-  
Many of our Empires gallant Sons fall,-  
But there pluck shall be written on Histry's Pages-  
For they answered there final Roll Call.-

Somewhere in France we are waiting.-  
And watching for our treacherous foe,-  
Our weary vigil never abating,-  
For liberty we<sup>d</sup> strike a great blow,-  
Somewhere in France never tiring,-  
Anxious and ready for work,-  
If up on the firestep firing-  
There's not one amongst them will shirk,

Somewhere in France there are heroes,-  
who are ready to lay down there lives,-  
No thought of leaving their loved ones,-  
For Victory each of them strives.-

---

Somewhere at home you're expecting,-  
To hear of Victories Great,  
While you sit and lounge in comfort,-  
Perhaps heedless of your brave Brothers fate,-

Somewhere out there these heroes,-  
Are looking to you for Support,-  
To see that their freedom's not tarnished,-  
No half measures from you will they Court.

Composed by,  
Sapper  
B.G. Winch.  
B.E.F.

#### Tommies Complaint

We left our home and loved ones,-  
At the Country's urgent Call,-  
Like many more of Briton's Sons,-  
For Freedom prepared to fall,-

We gave up many comforts,-  
We're placed in many a plight,-  
And braved all weathers like good sports,-  
in training for the fight

After many months of training,-  
We are ready for the foe,-  
Leaving loved ones, not complaining,-  
To save their homes we go.-

We endured many a hardship,-  
In waist deep flooded trench,-  
And oftimes had the Pip:  
And sometimes swore in French.-

But the greatest of all hardships,-  
I still have to relate,-  
straight from a British Tomies lips,-  
Whose language is not always sedate,-

Wounded and invalided home,-  
To an Hospital he is led,-  
And for the first time for many months-  
Sleeps in a comfortable bed.

He has given an arm for freedom.-  
A leg or perhaps the two,-  
He sleeps and feels contented,-  
And dreams of pastures new.-

He dreams of victory, Liberty-  
His loss he thinks but naught,-

---

Alas! he awakens presently,-  
And wonders for what he has fought,-

For now he's convalescent,-  
And strolls out in the grounds,-  
He's done his bit and on the pleasure bent.-  
Finds everywhere he's out of bounds,-

He may sit down in the garden,-  
Or lay about the grass,-  
But outside the gate I beg your Pardon.-  
He is not allowed to Pass-

He gets his daily Papers,-  
And from them more he learn's,-  
That while thousands, of Aliens are free,-  
Poor wounded Tommies are interned

Sapper Winch  
B,E,F,

Perham Down

There's a spot of lonely exile on the Plain.-  
Right out of reach of everything but rain,-  
The roads are chalky ruts –  
The Hotels wooden Huts.  
It's just Siberia melted down again.

At night we sally forth in youthfull glee,  
The thousand charms of Ludgershall to see,-  
Should you see a sorry sight,-  
On the boulevards at night,  
you can bet that he's a Perham refugee.-

When conscientious people by objection,-  
And suffer from such terrible infection,-  
What they want is perfect peace,-  
They will find a sweet release.-  
On Perham Down until the resurrection.-

When the Sergent Major recomends a rest,-  
And you choose the time you think will suit you best,-  
You rush away to Town But your mind's on Perham Down,-  
And that peaceful grey home in the West,-

When Kaiser Bill has lost his vile renown,-  
And little Willie's Ki-Wied very brown,-  
They'll not go to Saint Helena,-  
For we've found a worse arena,-  
We shall stick them in a hut on Perham Down.

H.C.J.

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ROYAL, BUCKS, HUSSARS.

A Conscientious Objector

I'm one of a peace loving nation,-  
That loves not slaughter and strife-  
And I<sup>ve</sup> a strong conscientious objection,-  
To the taking of anyones life.

So put me down as one of the, C, O<sup>s</sup>,-  
For I think its my duty to object,-  
To the slaughter of women and children,-  
And my own life, you bet I respect,

I<sup>ve</sup> at present a good situation,-  
Am leading a strenuous life-  
With a pretty fair remuneration,-  
I<sup>ve</sup> loving children and wife.

So I<sup>ve</sup> made up my mind to object, Sir,-  
To make a most determined stand  
And I hope of conscientious objectors,-  
There<sup>ll</sup> soon be some millions at hand.

You may call me a cur, if you like, Sir,-  
But I mean every word that I say,-  
For I'm one of the conscientious objectors,-  
To the Scoundrel who boasted "The day".

And for every shell that he sends us,-  
We must send him a dozen or more,-  
Some Hand Grenades, and French Mortars,-  
Including Whizz Bangs Galore,-

And that is the kind of objection,-  
That individuals should lay,-  
The best Plan for our Children's Protection,-  
Is barring the Allemens Way.-

I<sup>ve</sup> still got a good situation,-  
And drawing a regular Pay.-  
But Victory is our chief remuneration.-  
Not forgetting our Shilling a day.

I<sup>ve</sup> still got a conscientious objection,-  
I dont believe in slaughter and strife,-  
But I think it's the wrong way to stop it,-  
By staying at home with the wife –

---

Sapper Winch

To Munition Workers

You are needed for munitions,-  
Your Country bids you give,-  
Your whole time and ambitions,-

---

To help your comrades live,-

At our Empire's urgent call,-  
For men and still more men,-  
you responded one and all,-  
That our Empire should not fall.

We are needed in the trenches,-  
you were wanted at your work,-  
Some were needed at the Benches,-  
But none our duties now must shirk,-

You have given at work your best,-  
We have fought as we were bid-  
Do not plead for a few days rest,-  
Just to spend your well earned quid.

Have you thought what it will mean,-  
To the lads across the way,-  
If your work for a day you cease,-  
Do you know the price you pay.

For without the shells and guns,-  
Which we are needing more each day,-  
T,would be murder for our Gallant Sons-  
Who have kept the huns at Bay,

They ask not for a holiday,  
Though they need it every lad.  
They ask for shells to Pave the way,-  
To a great and speedy Victory,-

Workers to yourselves be true,-  
Think not of self awhile,-  
But heed your Armies cry.  
No Holidays, but shells, more shells,-  
Let shells be your reply,-

Sapper Winch.