



**PRG 1263/3 World War 1 diary of Rev Frederick Albury 26 July 1917 to 11 August 1918
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Inside front cover:

1605A
Dvr. F. Albury
1st Section
5th DAVC
AIEF

Arrived back from England on the 26/7/1917. Reached the Section on the 28/7/17 @ Brandhook on the Ypres front. Its about the hottest line we have been in yet. Went out in the afternoon for swim. Fritz came over in the night with bombs and killed 1 man & wounded another. These were our first casualties.

Sunday 30/7/17 Very wet nothing do yet.

Monday 31/7/17 Reivelle 4.30am & went up to the hottest shop I have been in yet. am on the Ypres front where we began the advance this morning. Wrote to Rene & finished with the job & feel much better for it.

Tuesday 1/8/17 Horse pregnit [pregnant]. Very wet all day no carting done. Very fierce bombardment last night about 10 o'clock around Ypres & on both sides as far as you could see.

Wednesday 2/8/17 Harnessed up at 7am & was out carting all day still very wet & muddy. Got home @ ½ /5. I went to bed early am going to write a letter.

Sunday 5th/8/17 Nothing doing all day. weather broke & ground dried up a bit.

Monday 6/8/17 Exercizing in morning. Harness cleaning afternoon. No rain. Writing a letter to Florrie.

Tuesday 7/8/17 Nothing doing. Very quiet all day.

Wednesday 8/8/17 very quiet. Monty Richards came back from England. Went packing.

Thursday 9/8/17 Went packing tonight & had some very close shaves but got as far as the sapper's trenches with the ammuniton. Got back about ½ past 2 pm.



Friday 10/8/17 Went packing up the pack track. Fritz was shelling as we went up before dark & he had balloons up got back about 12 o'clock.

Sat 11/8/17 Went packing again with Capt. Murry went right through Monnisy & round "Hell Fire" Corner but we were not shelled at all. Quietest trip of all. Got back at ½ past 11pm.

Sunday 12/8/17 Hand packs over @ dinner time. Nothing else all day.

Monday 13/8/17 Been on light duty today with a bad heel. Detailed to go out with RE's stuff for the trenches. Went up to 51st Battery in rear of supports. Fritz very quiet behind the lines early in the evening.

14/8/1917 Tuesday. Nothing doing.

15/8/17 Wednesday went up to Menning gate picking up salvage amms 18 pdr. away all day.

16/8/17 Thursday

21/8/17 Tuesday 51st

21/8/17 Tuesday 51st for empties.

22/8/17 Wednesday 6,000 rounds of ammunition to go out today. Coming home last night caught a grey mule with pack saddle on nobody has claimed him yet.

23/8/17 Thursday Nothing doing all day.

24/8/17 went to Wemertinge for bricks for stables.

25/8/17 Saturday Went for bricks. Fritz dropped two bombs on YMCA tent.

26 Sunday very quiet building horse lines all morning. Took two loads of 4.5 amm. to 113th Batty. Got home about 12pm wet through.

27/8/17

24/10/17 I have been off duty for a week with bad eyes. Reveille @ 3am this morning but I was not sent out. The wagons were back very early. This is our second time in at YPRES and is hotter than the first. We have had several casualties here. A friend of mine Dayton was killed the day before yesterday. We have been working day and night for the first three weeks but have slackened off lately. Another big push expected soon. Everything is very muddy. Find life a burden after Blighty.



25/10/1917 Reveille 6am. Nothing doing so far. Half camp was flooded out last night by heavy rain. Went into Ypres this morning to get timber for officers stable. Worked harness this afternoon ready for general inspection tomorrow.

26/10/1917 Reveille 6am. Rained heavily all night. Still raining all day. Heard rumour of moving on 28/10/17.

27/10/17 Reveille 3am. Went carting to forward dump did two trips & came home. Fritz very quiet today. Rain cleared off & is now a decent day. Went out this evening after dark to try and shake a pair of gumboots but had no luck.

28/10/17 rain cleared off & so I took advantage & gave both my mules a good cleaning. Fritz came over this morning and dropped about 30 bombs on Ypres. Being Sunday we had no parades this afternoon & so I went for a walk and found Rob. T'was like getting a breath of home. He is still the same old chap the army does not seem to have contaminated his life at all & it is a real treat to have a man like him for a cobbler. We talked until well into the evening when we had to part again. He has the M.M. for devotion to duty.

29/10/17 very quiet today just messing around the horse lines. Had word from Douglas who was reported killed & is now reported wounded & doing well.

2/11/17 Reveille 5am. I went on picquet @ 1/2 past 4am & then had to go out in the team carting bricks from Ypres to our new camp for stable floors. Got home about 5pm & am rather tired. Have seen Rob this last 2 evenings I expect him to come up tonight.

3/11/1917 Reveille 5am On fatigue loading wagons with bricks all day. Got home at 4pm.

4/10/1917 Driving in team all day carting bricks for stables finished @ 2pm Writing home & to SA tonight.

23/12/1917 Have been on route march for three days now but owing to frost we have made very poor progress. Today we travelled about 10 kilos between 6.30am & 4.30pm instead of 25 kilos. The road is so slippery one has a job to walk & it is almost impossible to get along with the wagons & teams. I am on picquet tonight & it is now about 1 am but I have a good coal fire and everything is tres bon except that we are short of rations as the QMG wagon got bogged & is some miles behind. It is still freezing & travelling will be bad tomorrow.

2/1/18 Spent New Year at Tobersent. This is a very quiet French village but I find that the civilians here are much more hospitable than the majority of the French peasantry. There are several families of refugees from Arras & everybody seems to be very poor circumstances. The woman we are billeted with has her husband a prisoner-of-war in Germany. He was captured off the Marne. There has been no Australian mail in for some time but we expect a mail in @ anytime now.



5/1/18 Monty & I walked into Etaples this afternoon but it is very quiet. Bought some lollies & figs for the French kiddies where I am billeted got home about ½ /6pm had plenty of fun with the figs.

23/2/1918 1-40pm can't sleep tonight so will add a little to fill up time. While we were @ Tobersent we were, with 5 other teams, sent out & attached to the 18th ASG. Did not care for the job much, as we were camped about 1 1/2 kilos from the cookhouse & wagon park & had no place for our harness. Walked into Deserves one night & found Robbie & Cliff & had some good talks about Coromandel Valley. Saw him several times & one afternoon the 3 of us had our photos taken. Left Tobersent & came back to Dranada on the Messines front. Got in to our old camp on the 5/2/18. They keep us pretty busy but we have only had one casualty & he was sniped. We pack 4.7 French mortar bombs up to the front line & do general carting besides. Fritz is very quite & our guns only fire a few rounds each day. We have lost our old Colonel who has gone back to Aussie, & in his place we have a major who is a rotter. He has turned the DAO upside down and nothing seems to please him. The first thing he did was to build a clink which we have always done without until he came. I have been in Hdqrs First Hut for a week now with influenza but am feeling good now. Am expecting leave to England in a few weeks now. We have had a very mild winter this year & the weather still holds good. Have received a photo of Mother & Father & also one from Florrie and Rene. Have had some bonza letters from Florrie & they do a chap good when he knows they come from such a bonza girl who loves him. Think I'll try for a sleep now as it is now 2am. Wrote to Maggie Bone tonight.

29/3/18 Left Dranoutre for the Somme started @ 2pm & marched to Godewaersvelde where we entrained @ 2am. It has been raining slightly since we started to move. We have been stopped on a siding for about 3 hours but we are only a few kilometres from our destination & hope to get there before long. Arrived @ destination about 5.30pm & yoked up strait away & marched until 1.30am when we bivouacked & stayed there all day of the 30th & 31st. It was wet nearly all the time.

1 April went on sick paraded this morning with my thumb I was sent to hospital. Ambulance came about 1pm & took me to the 3rd Canadian Hospital where I was innoculated & my hand dressed & was marked evacuation & am now waiting for hospital train. It is now just after 10pm.

2/4/18 Entrained this afternoon @ Doullons about 2pm & arrived @ Etaples 1st Canadian General Hospital during the evening & undressed for the first time in a week.

3/4/18 everything OK & am now installed in Hut 8.

9/4/1918 am still in Hut 8 but expect to be sent to Con. Camp anywhen now my thumb is just about the same.

11/4/1918 Was marked for Con. Camp but they kept me here on light duty at the Baths. I have 5 baths to keep clean which means about an hours work each day.

13/4/1918 Still on the above job, my thumb is just the same.



27/4/1918 Still in hospital @ the baths. Volunteered for blood transfusion about a week ago but have not been tested yet. Received a letter from the Bank yesterday notifying me that my remittance was in their hands in London.

8/5/1918 Had my blood tested yesterday & was grouped into 4 am sure of Blighty now.

17/5/1918 Had transfusion yesterday morning @ 10am gave blood to a Grenadier Guardsman who has 14 wounds am feeling rather weak but not bad having lovely weather now & hope it lasts till I cross the water.

20/5/1918 Sunday Fritz came over @ 10.20pm. He was over for 3 hours and dropped 200 bombs killing 51 & wd [wounding] 38 men of the day staff of the 1/ Can. Gen Hosp. 2 sisters were killed & one died of wnds 3 wounded. TC was blown down one end & 1 man killed & 5 wned, myself getting off with slight shell shock. The raid ended @ 1.30am after 3 hours fierce bombing. There were numerous casualties among the patients. But not [one] of the Sisters on night duty left there posts. The Colonel of the 1st C. Gen. Hosp started operating shortly after the raid started & continued right through it which speaks well for him as a soldier & a man.

21st/5/18 Monday.all day spent in repairing damage done in last night's raid. 7 of the staff men are unidentified & 7 are missing presumably the same men. During the evening most of the sisters not on duty went out on to the sand hills for the night. One hostile areoplane came over, but owing to the accuracy of our barrage he did no damage flying at a great height.

22/5/18 Tuesday Things have quietened down today & the camp straitened up. Casualties from the air raid reported to be over 500.This evening all of the Day Sisters were taken by motor Amb. to a wood by Paris plage for the night. No hostile areoplanes during the night.

Wed. 23/5/1918 Warned for evacuation this morning @ half past 2 we entrained @ Etaples and were conveyed to Calais where we embarked on a transport & sailed @ 12 noon for Dover. The crossing was accomplished in 3/4 of an hour & we all landed safely @ Dover where we entrained straight away & taken to Chatham, part of the MO & put into Fort Pitt Hospital. Staid here 3 days had one 1/2 day in Chatham which is a very nice town.

26/5/1918. Mr Hill coal & coke merchant out of Sevenoaks came down & drove myself & 4 others to Sevenoaks which I enjoyed very much. Arrived at the Cornwall Hall VAD Hosp. about 1/2 past 3pm where I am at present.

27/5/18 Sunday. Had a young Aust. lady to see me this evening, we had a very nice chat.

28/5/18 Monday. I am still a bed case but am feeling very well. The Mother of the young lady who visited me yesterday visited me this afternoon & brought me some cigarettes. She is a nice old lady & is going back to Aussie in a day or two. I would like to go with her but there is not much hope.



29/5/1918 Tuesday. The Aust. ladie sent me round some more cigarettes & an Aust. paper nothing else to report all day.

30/5/18 Wednesday. Very quiet all day. George Andrews came round to see me this afternoon & staid a couple of hours.

31/5/18 am getting up today after dinner.

9/7/18 Left Sevenoaks & started leave today. Arrived @ Windsor 6.30pm, weather stormy.

11/7/1918 Left Wraysbury by the 10.51 for Alton went to the pictures last night with Penie. Have had a very enjoyable time @ Wraysbury.

12/7/18 Went to Altons had tea with Aunt Harriet & cycled to Aunt Ryes. Staid the night very pleased to see me wet all day roads very heavy very tired.

13/7/1918 Went to Aunt Milly's got 3 punctures this morning. Left Aunt Ryes @ 11am arrived Aunt Milly @ 2pm. Saw Aunt Tilly & Uncle Jim & after tea Uncle George & I cycled over to Worldham to see cousin Bessie & her two boys & went on to Aunt Lizzie & Uncle Will. Got home to Aunt Mills @ 10pm. Had a pretty fair time.

14/7/1918 Sunday. Wet all day did not go anywhere in the morning. Went to tea with Aunt Tilly in the afternoon saw Uncle Jim. Cycled back to Alton tonight & saw Aunt Harriett & Uncle Will & several others.

15/7/1918 Going to London by the 9.35 from Alton. Went down to Sevenoaks & staid the night @ Mrs Stapley's. Saw Miss Foster.

16/7/18 Going up to London today. Had a good day in London got back to 7oaks @ 1/2 past 7pm went for a walk after supper.

17/7/18 Cycled to Maidstone this morning arrived there @ 12 o'clock met Miss Stephens @ 1 o'clock went to Chatham rained in the evening. Got back to Maidstone 10pm put up @ the Temperance Hotel for the night. Got to bed 12 o'clock.

18/7/1918 Got up @ 5am started back for Sevenoaks 5.30am. Arrived back @ 8am had breakfast went up to the Old House got my money went to see Mrs Andrew, no letters today. Caught the 2-9pm. Had dinner in London went to Hdqrs got my 7 extra days leave & am now in London having tea. Am catching the 7pm for Bournemouth at Waterloo. Find food is not so scarce in London as elsewhere. Arrived @ Bournemouth 10 o'clock everybody well. Met a nice friend on the way down.



19/7/18 Rather wet this morning everything very quiet up to date. Went to the cliffs this afternoon & to the pictures with Maggie in the evening. Got home about 1/2 past 10pm.

20/7/1918 Went by train to Christchurch & went through the old Priory which is 333 ft long. They have a fine pipe organ built in 1788. Saw the Holy Beam & heard the legend in connection with. Got home to dinner about ½ past 1 or 2 o'clock.

21/7/18 Went to Church with Maggie. I did not like it as it was C of E. Went out with Fred in afternoon & had a good walk though the park & gardens and up to the pier & along to the Boscombe Pier & home through Boscombe.

22/7/1918 Saw Maggie off @ 12 am & then went to see Mrs Paris. Met some friends in the afternoon went to theatre with them in the evening.

23/7/18 Went with a friend over the Priory and to the pictures in the afternoon & to the theatre in the evening. I had a musical evening to finish up with.

24/7/1918 Went out to Pool in the afternoon walked through the Park went on the sea for an hour & came back to Bournemouth & went to the theatre @ night.

25/7/1918 Left Bournemouth @ 10am & came back to 7 oaks arrived here @ 3 o'clock pm went to the old House & in the evening went to see Ernie & am now sleeping there for a few nights. Came down to Hildenboro in the morning

26/7/1918 Spent the day @ Hildenboro had a good time. Cycled back to Sevenoaks @ night.

27/7/1918 Saturday. loafed about in the morning went to the Hospital in the afternoon found nobody @ home, so went to a circus @ Bat & Ball in afternoon got back for tea. went for a walk with G. Andrews in the evening weather fine all day.

28/7/1918 got up about 1/2 8 went to church with Ernie & Elsie. Had dinner @ Ernies & cycled down to Hildenboro in afternoon, went to the station to meet one of Alice's friend, & went for a walk after. Cycled back to Sevenoaks in the evening.

29/7/1918 went for a bike ride in the morning, for a walk early in the afternoon, had tea with Miss Foster & biked down to Hildenboro in evening. Came back to Sevenoaks @ 9 o'clock & sang @ a concert in the Hospital. Went to the station to meet Elsie & Ernie & Fred Lucas, who had been to London for the day.

30th left Sevenoaks for London @ 8.30 & was sent from London to No.1 Command Depot.

31st 1918 saw the Doctor and was marked B1A2 & dental treatment. Very quiet all day & very hot.



1/8/1918 off duty for the Day on account of inoculation. No drill all day. Went to Warminster in evening but do not like it as its an absolutely strange place & I have no friends here @ all.

2/8/1918 rained last night very wet all day. no drill @ all for off duty men so have just written to home. Food is good in this camp but very short.

10/8/1918 Cycled to Bristol this afternoon, left camp @ 1/2 12 & arrived in Bristol @ 1/2 4 a distance of 32 miles. Had tea @ Mr Singers & went for a walk after with Jim & his father. Saw some lovely scenery including the Clifton Suspension Bridge & then went out on the down & watched the sun set over the Bristol Channel. Went home to supper, & put up for the night at the YMCA Dy Out

11/8/18 went to chapel @ the Plymouth Brethren. Quite a unique church was in use during the reformation. All the windows are about 12 foot high it was built that way to stop the Christian persecutors from firing on the people while a service was on. The walls are 22 inches thick. Went to Bible class in the afternoon, had tea & started for camp about 1/4 5. had about 3/4 hour in Bath & then took the trail for camp again arriving home at 11.30 dead tired but enjoyed the trip very much. Had a large brick of mail waiting for me when I got back to camp.

Mr A J Moyle
Religious Work dept
Aldwich theatre
Drury Lane
London

[The remainder of the diary contains miscellaneous notes and jottings.]