

James Hawthorn Cunningham 69838
A Company
36th Reinforcement
1917 - 1919

In September 1917, aged 38 years, James Hawthorn Cunningham of Hastings New Zealand joined the army.

As a pacifist, he waited until he was conscripted. On January 1918 he married Annie Caroline Hale.

After initial training at the Featherston Camp, Jamie (as he called himself) was marched over the Rimutaka Ranges to Trentham Camp before being shipped off to England. The sea voyage took him from Wellington to Albany (Australia), on to Colombo (Ceylon / Sri Lanka) and then to Suez. After a month in camp for further training he sailed from Alexandria to Taranto (heel of Italy) for the commencement of a train journey up the Italian Adriatic Coast, then west through Monaco and up through the centre of France to Cherbourg. He crossed the English Channel to Southampton and was taken by train to Brocton Camp in the Midlands.

After 9 weeks in Camp his unit joined the fighting forces on the Western Front and was instrumental in the liberation of Le Quesnoy. Jamie suffered a hip wound at Le Quesnoy one week before the Armistice and spent 10 days in hospital before rejoining his battalion at Etaples (France) for the 178 mile march to Cologne Germany as part of the occupation forces.

The Army of Occupation was stood down on 25 March 1919 and so after about 4 months in the field Jamie returned to England and to Sling Camp in Bulford, just north of Southampton. He would have been there when troops from Canterbury, Otago & Wellington created a giant kiwi on the hillside. Jamie took 14 days leave from the camp to visit his parents in Scotland and Annie's mother in London before returning to camp and subsequently the voyage back to New Zealand.

This book is his narrative of that story as told in a diary of his voyage to England and in postcards to Annie.

Missing from his narrative is any mention of his actual field service (with the exception of one postcard), or of his return voyage. He either never wrote about these experiences or the material has been lost. We assume the former as Annie and thereafter his daughter Margaret were good at keeping items of significance and of sentimental value. His field service has been gleaned from his pay book and war document archives.

Graeme & Glenys Eddy Auckland 2018

NZ Training



From 23 September 1915 starting with the 7th Reinforcement, almost every reinforcement (1000-2000 soldiers) marched over two nights and three days to Trentham Camp, just before embarking for the front.

The Wairarapa Patriotic Association provided a meal at the Rimutaka Summit on the first day.



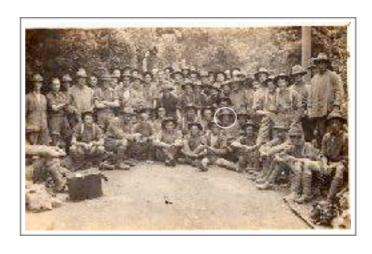


Route marches (a long march by a group of infantry) were normal parts of the training.
The Rimutaka march became the final test of fitness and endurance for the infantry and included two night bivouacs, one at Kaitoke and one near Upper Hutt.



The reinforcement would leave Tauherenikau (before January 1916) and later Featherston about 3am and reach the Rimutaka Summit about five hours later. After an early meal, the men would march down to camp at Kaitoke, having covered 27km.

The men carried fighting kit (rifle, ammunition, small pack, rations, water bottle) and carried out a mock attack in the Mangaroa Hills.



They marched in companies (about 200 men) and would take turns to lead the long column. An ambulance would pick up any injured man but few pulled out.

Over 30,000 infantry marched over the Rimutaka Hill - the last in April 1918. The marches were halted during the winters of 1917 and 1918.

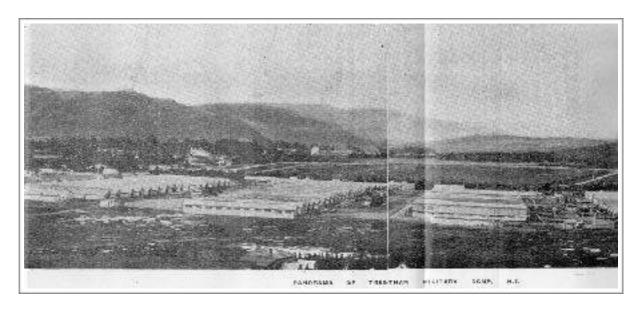


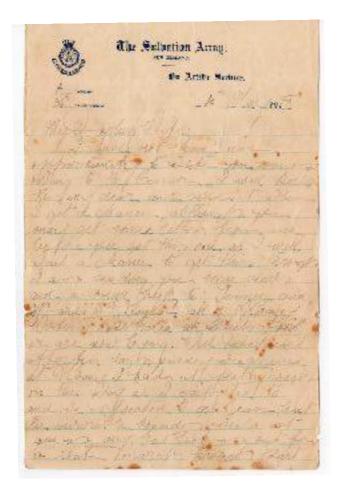
NZ Military Camps





Tauherenikau Military Camp



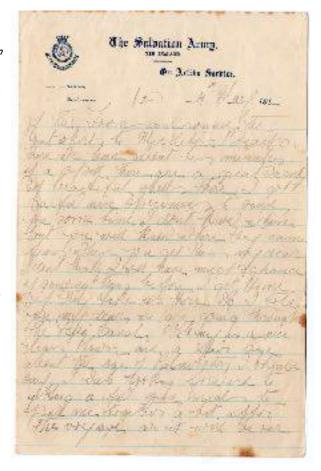


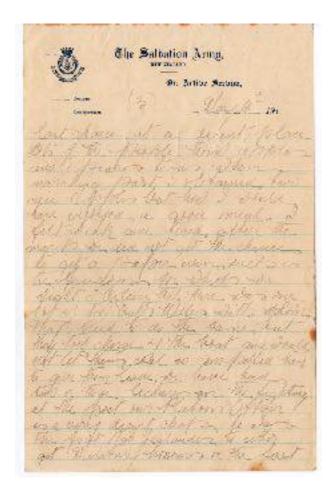
4th May 1918 My Darling Wife

I have not had an opportunity to write you much owing to the censor. I will keep this my dear and send it when I get a chance although you may get some letters from me before you get this one as I will wait a chance to get this through. I am sending you some views and a small book to Jennie and Mr and Mrs Taylor all of Albany Western Australia at which port we are now lying. Well sweetheart after ten days journey we arrived at Albany, West Australia. I had it pretty rough on the way as I expected to and we expected to get leave but the miserable hounds would not give us any, but took us out for a route march through part

4 May 1918

of the town and round the outskirts to Middleton Beach. There we had about ten minutes of a spell. There are a great variety of beautiful shells there. I got a few nice specimens to send you some time. I don't know when but you will know where they came from when you get them my dear. I don't think I will have much chance of sending them before I get Home if they take us there. As I told you my dear we are going through the Suez Canal. Albany is a nice clean town and a fair size, about the size of Palmerston I should say. I was looking forward to getting a few good meals to pull me together a bit after the voyage as it will be our



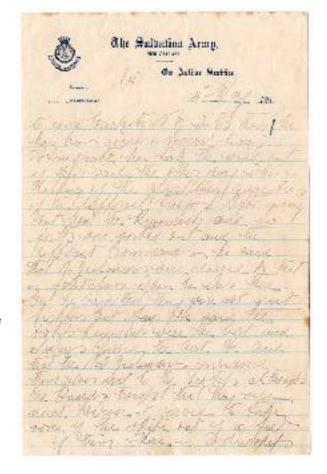


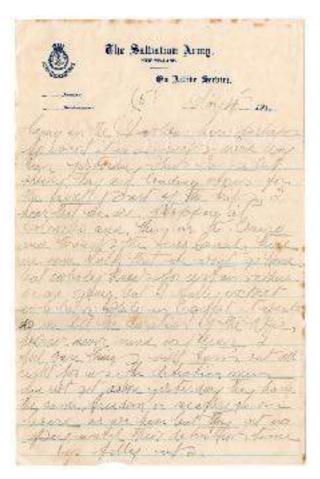
May 4th

last chance at a decent place. Lots of the people threw apples and pears to us when marching past. I obtained two nice apples but how I would have enjoyed a good meal. I felt weak and tired after the march. We did not get the chance to get a paper even such is the freedom for which we fight. I believe there was one lot at New South Wales with whom they tried to do the same but they took charge of the boat and would not let them coal so compelled them to give them leave. We had had two or three lectures on the fighting at the front. Our Platoon Officer is a very decent chap. He was the first New Zealander to either get military honours or the first

4th May

to come back to NZ with them. He has been across several times. At any rate, he took the wind out of their sails the other day when talking of the fighting qualities of the different troops. After giving out how the regiments and so forth were sorted out and the different commands, he said the N. Zealanders were classed A. That is first class when he was there but he said they were not great fighters but fair. He said the Scotch Regiments were the best and always classed the best. He said that the New Zealanders considered themselves next to the Scotch although the Guards think that they were next. However it served to take some of the skite out of a few of them. There is a warship



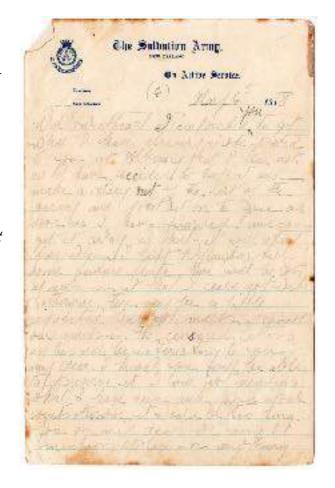


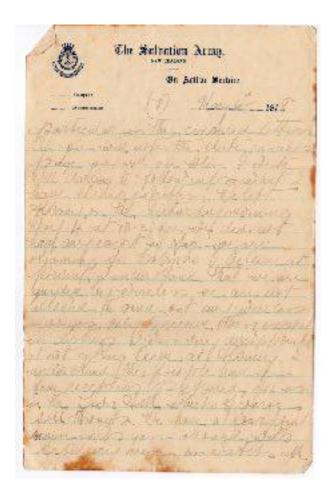
May 4th

lying in the harbour here perhaps for escort. It is a much nicer day than yesterday, which was a bit showery. They are loading stores for the next part of the trip. I hear we are stopping at Colombo and then on to Cairo through the Suez Canal. There are some talk that we wont go Home but nobody knows for certain where we are going, but I fully expect us to be a while in Egypt. It would do me till the duration of the war, however never mind my dear I feel sure things will turn out all right for us. The detention men did not get ashore yesterday. They have the same freedom or nearly so as we have but they get no pay until their detention time is fully up.

May 6th 1918

Well sweetheart I expected you to get what I have already wrote posted to you at Albany but I did not, so I have decided to keep it and make a diary out of the rest of the journey and post it on to you as soon as I have finished and can get it away so that it will start from when I left Wellington till some future date. There will be lost of news in it that I could not write otherwise. There may be a little repeated but not much. I cannot say much in the censored letters for this will be interesting to you my dear. I know you will be able to preserve it. I will just mention what I have seen and principal events otherwise it would be too long. You see my dear we cannot mention places or anything



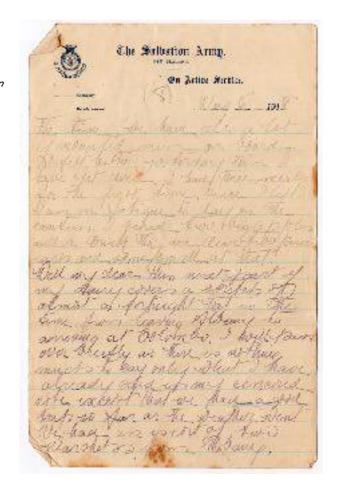


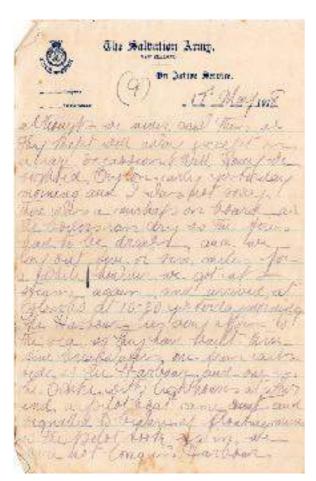
May 6th 1918

particular in the censored letters. If you will note the date on each page you will see when I write. Well darling to follow up what I have already written. We left Albany on the Saturday morning May 4 at 10.30am. We did not have any escort so far. We are steaming for Colombo I believe at present. I understand that we are guarded by wireless. We are not allowed to send out any wireless messages, only to receive them except in distress. I was very disappointed at not getting leave at Albany. I understand the people had a fine reception prepared for us in the Town Hall which of course fell through. We have a four point seven inch gun aboard with artillery men on watch all

May 6th 1918

the time. We have also a lot of mounted men on board. I felt better yesterday than I have yet done. I had three meals for the first time since I left. I am on fatigue today on the canteen. I scored two big apples and a drink. They are dear two pence each and some small at that. Well my dear this next part of my diary covers a stretch of almost a fortnight. That is the time from leaving Albany to arriving at Colombo. I will pass over briefly as there is nothing much to say only what I have already said in my censored note, except that we had a good trip so far as the weather went. We had an escort of two warships from Albany



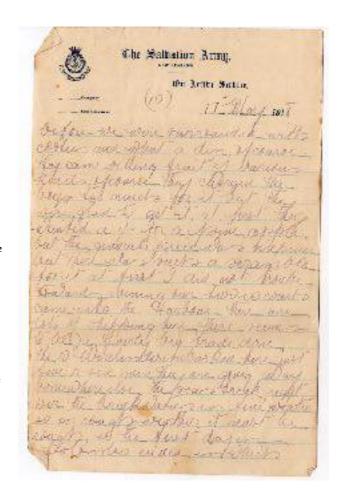


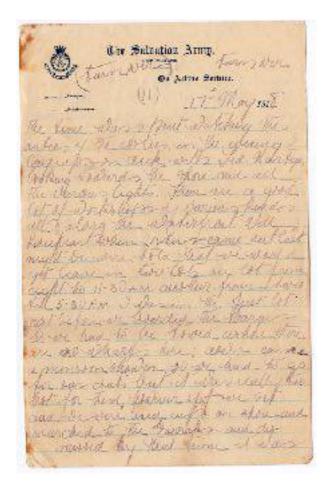
17th May 1918

although we never saw them as they kept well away except on a rare occasion. Well honey we sighted Ceylon early yesterday morning and I was not sorry. There was a mishap on board as the boilers ran dry so the fires had to be drawn and we lay out five or six miles for a while, however we got up steam again and arrived at Colombo at 10.30 yesterday morning. The harbour lies very open to the sea so they have built three fine breakwaters, one from each side of the harbour and one in the centre, with lighthouses at either end. A pilot boat came out and signalled to beware of floating mines. So the pilot took us in. We were not long in harbour

17 May 1918

before we were surrounded with coolies and what a din of course. They came selling fruit of various kinds. Of course they charged the boys too much for it but they were glad to get it. At first they wanted 1/- for a pineapple but the general price was sixpence but there was such a scramble for them at first, I did not trouble. Towards evening our two escorts came into the harbour. There are lots of shipping here. There seems to be a fairly big trade done. The 10th Wireless disembarked here just five or six men. They are going away somewhere else. The seas break right over the breakwater in fine weather so in rough weather it must be rough. So the first day in Colombo ended in which

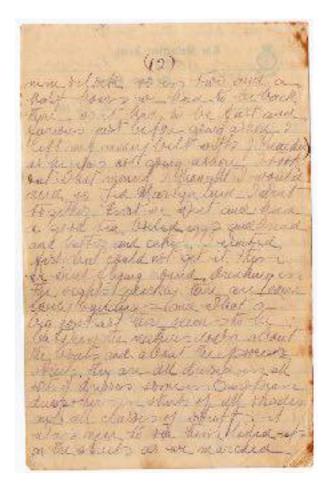


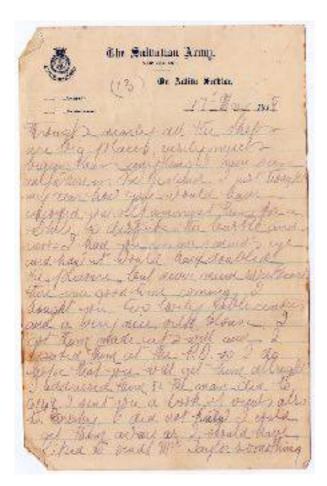


17 May 1918

the time was spend watching the antics of the coolies. In the evening I lay up on deck with Ted Martyn looking towards the shore and all the various lights. There are a good lot of workshops of various kinds all along the waterfront. Well sweetheart when orders came out last night we were told that we would get leave in two lots. One from eight to 11-30am. Another from two till 5-30pm. I was in the first lot. Just before we boarded the barges as we had to be towed ashore there are no wharves here down came a monsoon shower so we had to go for our coats but it was really too hot for them. However, off we set and we were lined up on shore and marched to the barracks and dismissed. By that time it was

nine o'clock so in two and a half hours we had to be back there. So it had to be fast and furious. Just before going ashore I left my money belt with J. Preacher as he was not going ashore. I took out what money I thought I would need so Ted Martyn and I went together. First we went and had a good tea boiled eggs and bread and butter and cakes. I wanted fish but could not get it. Then we went flying round drinking in the sights quickly. There are some lovely buildings and what a big contrast there seems to be between the natives down about the boats and about the poorer streets. They are all dressed in all sorts of dresses, some in European dress, others in skirts of all shades and all classes of stuff. It was nice to see them lined up on the streets as we marched



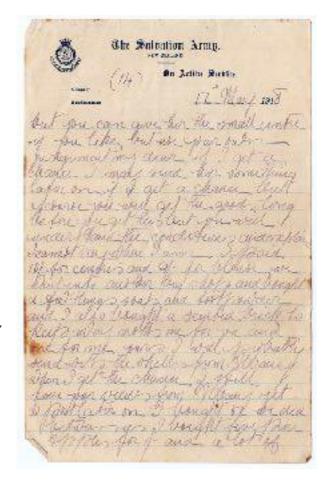


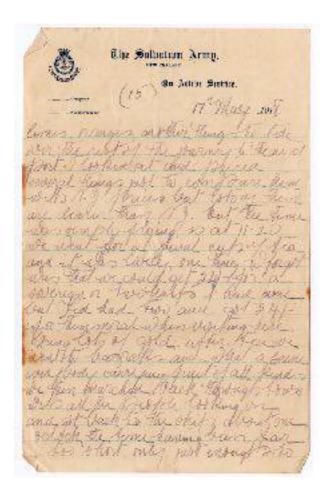
17 May 1918

through. Nearly all the shops are big places, easily much bigger than anything I have seen anywhere in New Zealand. I just thought my dear how you would have enjoyed yourself amongst them for a while. So despite the bustle and crush I had you in my minds eye and how it would have doubled the pleasure, but never mind sweetheart there is a good time coming. I bought you two lovely table centres and a very nice silk blouse. I got them made up well and I posted them at the P.O. so I do hope that you will get them alright. I addressed them or the man did to 6148. I sent you a book of views also to Crosby. I did not know I could get them away as I should have liked to send Mrs Taylor something

17 May 1918

but you can give her the small centre if you like, but use your own judgement my dear if you get a chance. I may send her something later on if I get a chance but of course you will get the goods long before you get this but you will understand the conditions and explain I cannot say where I am. I paid 10/- for centres and 9/- for blouse. We went into another big shop and bought a few things soap and foot powder and I also bought a scented brick to keep away moths one for you and one for me. Yours I will probably send with the shells from Albany when I get the chance. I still have your views from Albany yet to post later on. I bought or we did between us I bought five pineapples for 1 /- and a lot of



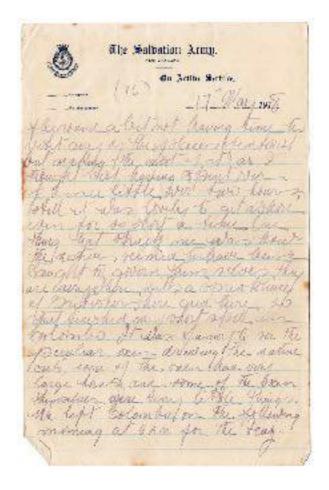


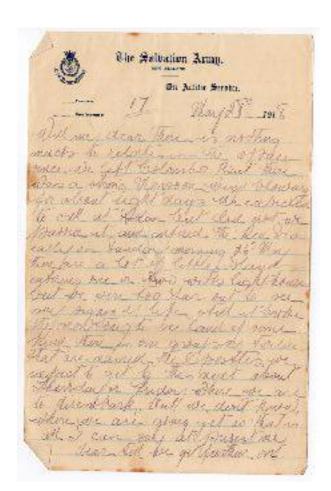
17 May 1918

limes, oranges another things to tide us over the rest of the journey to the next port. I looked at and priced several things just to compare them with N.Z. prices but lots of them are dearer than N.Z. But the time was simply flying so at 11-20 we went for a final cup of tea and it was lovely. One thing I forgot was that we could get 24/- for a sovereign or two halves. I had none but Ted had two and got 24/- for them. Moral when visiting here bring lots of gold. After tea we went to barracks and what a scene. Everybody carrying fruit of all kinds. We then marched back through town with all the people looking on and got back to the ship about one o'clock, the time having been far too short, only just enough to

17 May 1918

fly round a bit not having time to visit any of the places of interest but making the most of it as I thought best having spent 12 in little over two hours. Still it was lovely to get ashore even for so short a time. One thing that struck me was how the natives seemed to have been taught to govern themselves. They are everywhere with a sprinkling of Britishers here and there. So that finished my short spell in Colombo. It was funny to see the peculiar oxen drawing the native carts. Some of the oxen had very large horns and some of the oxen themselves were tiny little things. We left Colombo on the following morning at 6am for the Suez



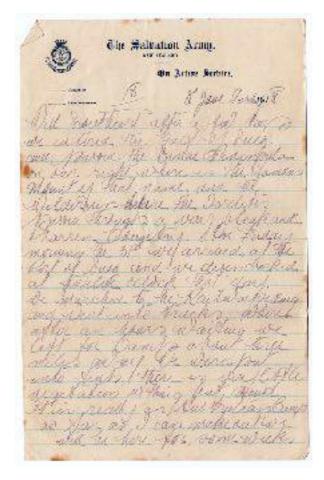


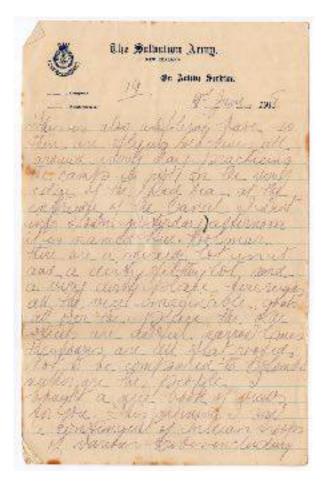
May 28th 1918

Well my dear there is nothing much to relate in the space since we left Colombo. But there was a strong monsoon wind blowing for about eight days. We expected to call at Aden but did not. We passed it and entered the Red Sea early on Sunday morning 26th May. There are a lot of little islands entering one or two with lighthouses but we were too far out to see any signs of life. Still it broke the monotony to see land of some kind. There is one group of twelve that are named the Apostles. We expect to get to this next about Thursday or Friday where we are to disembark, but we don't know where we are going yet. So that is all I can say at present my dear till we get further on.

2nd June Sunday 1918

Well sweetheart after a few days we entered the Gulf of Suez and passed the Sinai Peninsula on our right where is the famous mount of that name and the wilderness which the Israelites passed through. A very bleak and barren country. On Friday morning the 31st we arrived at the Port of Suez and we disembarked at twelve o'clock. That day we marched to the railway siding and went into trucks where after an hour's waiting we left for camp about three miles away. We were put into tents. There is very little vegetation nothing but sand. It is really an Australian camp as far as I can make out we will be here for some weeks.



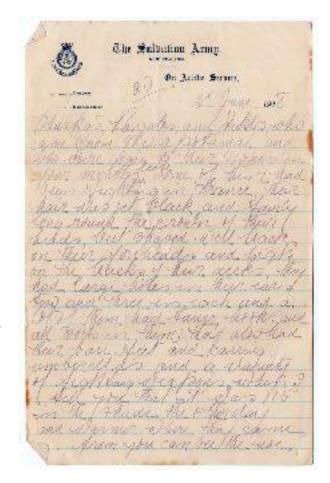


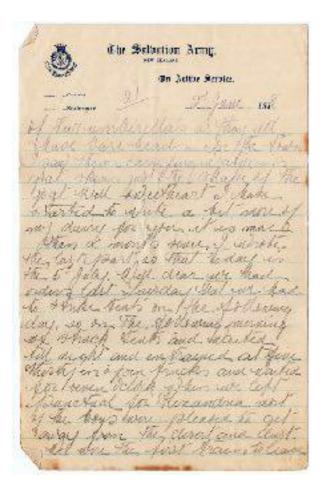
2nd June 1918

There is also a flying base so there are flying machines all round every day practising. The camp is just on the very edge of the Red Sea at the entrance of the canal. I went to town yesterday afternoon. It is named Rue Colmar. There are a mixed lot in it and a dirty filthy lot and a very dirty place a dirty filthy lot and a very dirty place. Here reigns all the vice imaginable, goats all over the place, the side streets are awful narrow lanes. The houses are all flat roofed. Not to be compared to Colombo and neither are the people. I bought a nice book of views for you. This morning I saw a contingent of Indian troops of various tribes including

2nd June 1918

Gurkhas, Punjabs and Sikhs, who came from Mesopotamia and who were going to their homes on four months leave. Some of them had been fighting in France. Their hair was jet black and fairly long round the crown of their heads but shaved well back on their foreheads and high on the backs of their necks. They had large holes in their ears, two and three in each and a lot of them had tunic hooks and all sorts in them. They also had their bare feet and carrying umbrellas and a variety of fighting weapons. When I tell you that it was 1150 in the shade the other day and warmer where they came from you can see the use



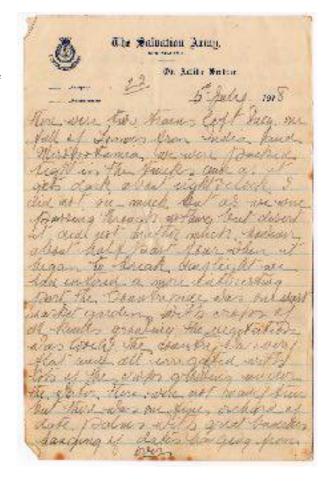


2nd June 1918

of their umbrellas as they all have bare heads. In the town I saw them carrying water in goat skins just the shape of the goat. Well sweetheart I have started to write a bit more of my dairy for you. It is more than a month since I wrote the last part so that today is the sth July. Well dear we had orders last Tuesday that we had to strike tents on the following day. So on the following morning we struck tents and waited till night and entrained at five thirty in open trucks and waited for seven o'clock when we left punctual for Alexandria. Most of the boys were pleased to get away from the desert and dust. We were the first train to leave.

5th July 1918

There were two trains left Suez. One full of Tommies from India and Mesopotamia. We were packed tight in the trucks and as it gets dark about 8 o'clock I did not see much. But as we were passing through nothing but desert it did not matter much. However, about half past four when it began to break daylight we had entered a more interesting part. The countryside was one vast market garden with crops of all kinds growing. The vegetation was lovely. The country was very flat and all irrigated with lots of the crops growing under the water. There were not many trees but there was one fine orchard of date palms with great bunches hanging of dates hanging from



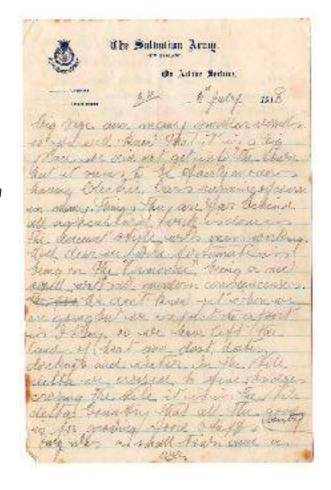
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them. One can understand a bit when it says in the Bible about the grain growing capabilities of that part of Egypt at least. Well we landed at Alexandria at five thirty and went straight on board the ("Ormonde"). It is simply packed with troops. We sleep anywhere no berths. There are five transports convoyed by nine destroyers mostly Japanese. There are about ten thousand troops all told Australians, Tommies and New Zealanders. Most of the Tommies have come from Mesopotamia and are all artillery. At 12-15 on Tuesday we moved out from Alexandria. First of all went several warships away ahead, then came three destroyers and then troopships and then other destroyers. Alexandria is a big town with a very large harbour. There were a great many ships in when we were there. I should say there were about sixty ships all of a

6 July 1918

big size and many smaller vessels. So you will know that it is a big place. We did not get into the town but it seems to be fairly modern having electric cars running. Of course in many things they are far behind. All agricultural work is done in the ancient style with oxen working. Well dear we were fortunate in being on the "Ormonde" being a new vessel with all modern conveniences. We don't know yet where we are going but we expect to a port in Italy. So we have left the land of heat and dust, dates, donkeys and water. In the Nile Delta we crossed some fine bridges crossing the Nile. It is in the Nile Delta country that all the good country is for growing food stuffs. Suez was a small town and a

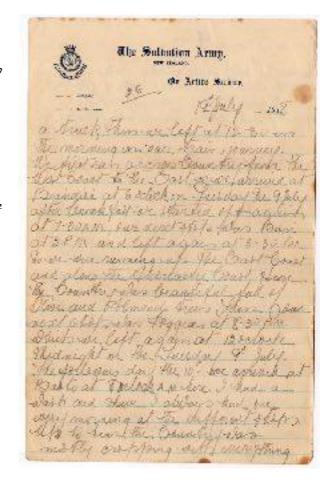


functory of July arely office, we now lake to the bridges from Patartine our fac grad no way not sell wither distributed and come had an order took and and a later of the balance of the balanc the otherwill at an goldenger good run and we have vill told at as I have Harded toward in two wells. of the lovelne to take had been considered. I had if you consider to him agrees. Dorde Soil Supplier of his is distributed mystologica fill barathers or arrive at Joseph Hay by Rendarino ungli Siano the Touly, devaluable, but no his at a canto Hall of Harmon Sa fine has when the west many is the fire does no tel at langua mulados etaing the fratique work we more served but but the and we have relieve a first country managed to got some because. the left banify citains belief and emarches to the fram we wrong free! word offered discount about Allahyle

Sunday 7th July Friday 19th July dirty place. We were late for the oranges from Palestine and the grapes were not ripe either. Well my dear it came out in orders last night that no photos were to be taken at (Taranto Italy) so we are going there all right. We are getting a good run and our luck still sticks to as (I have started to write on two sides of the paper to take up less room) I think if you can find the time my dear I would write this out in ink as it will preserve much better) Well Sweetheart we arrived at Taranto (Italy) on Monday morning at 10-30am the 8th July, disembarked and rested at a camp full of olive trees for five hours where there were many troops and a lot of Jamaica natives doing the fatigue work. We were served out with tea as there was a fine canteen and I managed to get some biscuits. We left camp at nine o'clock and marched to the trains. We were put in covered trucks, about thirty to

19 July 1918

a truck. Then we left at 12-30 in the morning on our train journey. We first ran across country from west coast to the east so we arrived at Brindisi at 6 o'clock on Tuesday the 9 July. After a breakfast we started off again at 7-30am. Our next stop was Bari at 2pm and left again at 3-30pm. So we were running up the east coast and along the Adriatic Coast. Here the country was beautiful full of olive and almond trees. Then our next stop was Foggia at 8-30pm which we left again are 12 o'clock midnight on the Tuesday 9th July. The following day the 10th we arrived at Basto at 8 o'clock am. Here I had a wash and shave. I always had one every morning at the different stops. Up to hear the country was mostly cropping with everything



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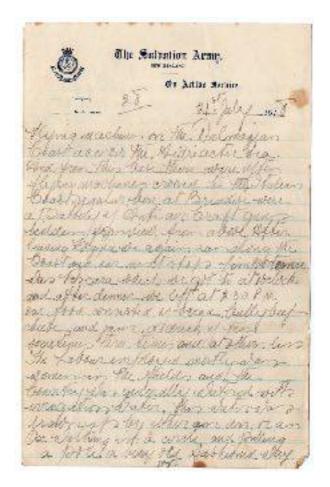
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Sunday 21st July Saturday 20th July 1918 very neat and tidy and plenty of wild flowers in plenty. Up to hear there was plenty of vines growing and the neatness of things was marvellous. I could not possibly convey to you my dear a comprehensive view of the country but up till now it was principally views with crops of about an acre or a half in oats or other crops. There were many trees of figs, olives and almonds principally and they were generally in rows with the vines leading from one to the other. There would be branches of trees growing out and others with a branch tied on to carry the vines and underneath them lovely yellow wheat and or cereals. There was no waste land so far, it was a lesson in intensive cultivation. I forgot to mention that when we crossed to Brindisi we were only sixty miles from an Austrian base for

215t July 1918

flying machines on the Dalmatian coast across the Adriatic Sea. And from this base there were often flying machines crossed to the Italian coast regular. Here at Brindisi were a battery of anti air craft guns hidden from view from above. After leaving Foggia we again ran along the coast and out next stop of importance was Pescara which we got to at I o'clock and after dinner we left at 2-30pm. Our food consisted of bread, bully beef, cheese and jam, a drink of tea. Sometimes three times and at others less. The labour employed mostly was women in the fields and the country was generally watered with irrigation water. This water was drawn up by either an ass or an ox walking in a circle and pulling a pole a very old fashioned way.



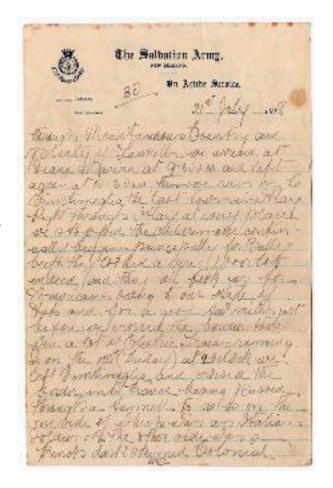
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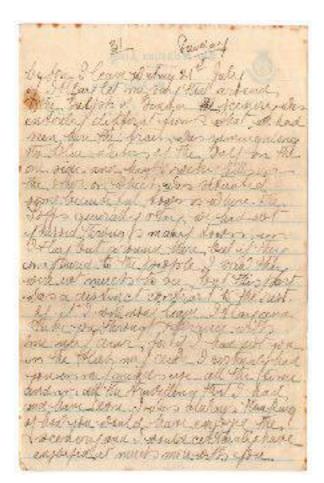
21st July

We had crossed two or three fine bridges but the rivers underneath was almost dry. Our next stop was Ancona which place we arrived at on Wednesday the 10 at 8.30pm and left again at nine o'clock. At Pesaro we left the coast again and run inland towards Bologna and then towards Parama which place we got to at 12 o'clock noon on Thursday 11th and let again at 12-30. Up through all the country so far all the railways and bridges had been guarded and still the women were generally employed. Our next place to stop was a place called Voghina. Here we struck south at Voghina we arrived at 4-45 and left at 6 o'clock on Thursday 11th. Here the country was very nice lovely mountainous country and all the ploughing done by bullocks. On Friday morning the 12th at 6am we arrived at Savona and left again at 7am and ran south to the Gulf of Genoa

215t July 1918

through mountainous country and plenty of tunnels. We arrive at Viana Marina at 9-30am and left again at 10-30am. Then we ran on to Vimtirneglia the last town in Italy. Right through Italy at every place we stopped the children are continually begging principally for bully beef. They looked a very poor lot indeed and they all took us for Americans owing to our style of hats and for a good few miles just before we crossed the border there were a lot of electric trains running. So on the 12th (Friday) at 2-oclock we left Vimtirneglia and crossed the border into France having passed through a tunnel to do so on the one side of which was an Italian soldier on the other side was a French dark skinned colonial



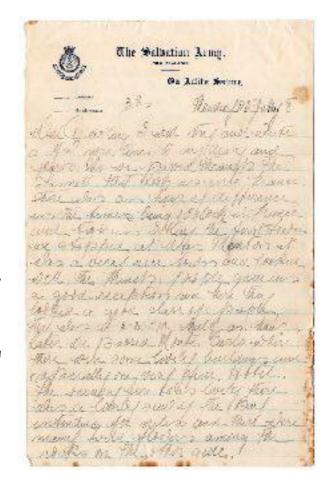


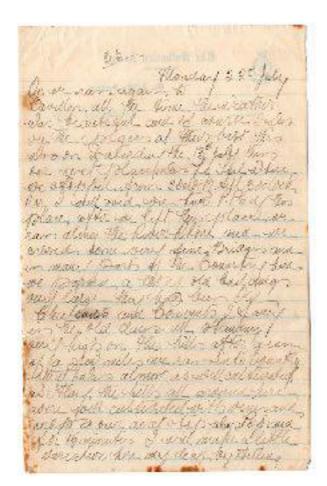
Sunday 21st July

Before I leave writing of Italy let me say that around the Gulf of Genoa the scenery was entirely different from what we had seen. Here the train was running along the blue waters of the Gulf on the one side and high rocky hills on the other on which was situated some beautiful towns where the toffs generally stay. We had not passed through many towns in Italy but around here. But if they compared to the people I saw they were not much to see, but this part was a distinct contrast to the rest of it. I will now leave Italy and take you through France with me my dear for if I had not you in the flesh my dear I certainly had you in my minds eye. All the time and in all the travelling that I had and have done I was always thinking of how you would have enjoyed the scenery and I would certainly have enjoyed it much more with you.

Monday 22nd July 1918

Well darling I will try and write a few more lines to my diary and yours. As we passed through the tunnel that took us into France there was an hour of difference in the time being I o'clock in France and two in Italy. The first town we stopped at was Menton. It was a very nice town and looked well. The French people gave us a good reception and here they looked a good class of people. That was at 2-30pm. Half an hour later we passed Monte Carlo where there was some lovely buildings and especially one very fine hotel. The scenery here was lovely. There was lovely view of the bay extending for miles and many wild flowers among the rocks on the other side



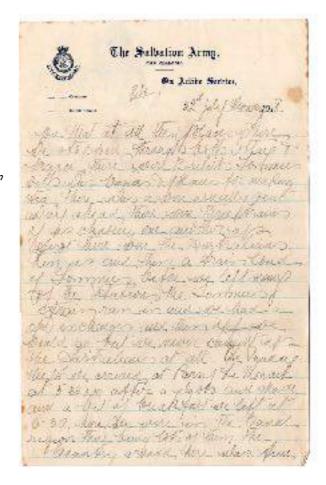


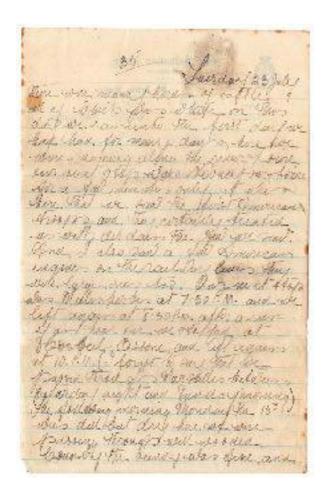
Monday 22nd July

On we ran again to Cavillon. All the time the weather was beautiful and of course I was see the places at their best. This was Saturday the 13th July then our next place was Le Teil where we stopped from 2 o'clock till 3 o'clock pm. I will send you two PPC of this place. After we left this place we ran along the river Rhone and we crossed some very fine bridges and in many part of the country here we passed a lot of old buildings. Very large. They had been old chateaus and convents I fancy in the old days all standing very high on the hills. After a run of a few miles we ran into country that was almost as well cultivated as Italy. The hills all around here were well cultivated with vines and crops. Our next stop was Perpraud for 15 minutes. I will make a little variation here my dear by telling

22nd July Monday 1918

you that at all these places where we stopped through both Italy and France there were British Tommies with wars basics & places for making tea. There was a wire usually sent away ahead. There were three trains of us chasing one another up. First there was the Australians, then us and then a train load of Tommies. Before we left many of the stations the Tommies train ran in and we had a few exchanges and then off we would go but we never caught up with the Australians at all. On Sunday the 14th we arrived at Paray le Monaik at 5-30am. After a wash and shave and a bit of breakfast we left at 6-30. Here we were in the canal region there being lots of them. The country around here was fine



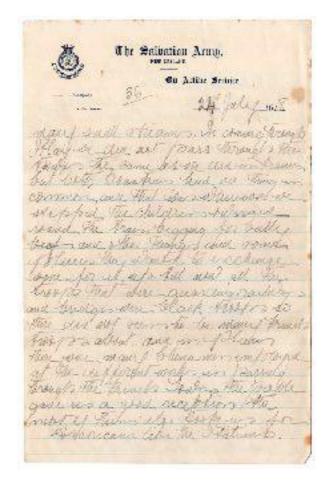


Tuesday 23 July

There were many herds of cattle all of which was white. On this day we ran onto the first day we had had for many days. Here we were running along the river Loire. Our next stop was Vevuey-sur-Loire for a few minutes only. It was here that we saw the first American troops and they certainly treated us with disdain the few we saw. And I also saw a few American engineers on the railway lines, they were large ones too. Our next stop was Malesburbers at 7-30pm and we left again at 8-30pm. After a run of an hour our we stopped at Corbeil-Ossone and left again at 10,pm (I forgot to say that we passed through Marseilles between Saturday night and Sunday morning) The following morning Monday the 1sth was dull but dry. Here we were passing through well wooded country. The scenery was fine and

24 July 1918

many small steams. In coming through Italy we did not pass through the towns the same as we did in France but both countries had one thing in common and that was wherever we stopped the children swarmed round the train begging for bully beef and other things and some places they wanted to exchange wine for it. Up till now all the troops that were guarding railways and bridges were black troops so there did not seem to be many French troops about. And in places there were many Chinamen employed at the different works. In passing through the French towns the people gave us a good reception. The most of them also took us for Americans like the Italians.



The following was were was Ital are done and fare some humany Merbagh wiff was and Dounter worth donal when becoming and months and beginning Allen agentinale tary, very frest offs beson towners for a chell time the whom a fairly large tools, all the town. The hope foreign ablicitionary the obelo steel conficult The beauty arm not much to the at most of their being the and smarke Afterts with seref old University s. I did at the the factors, they beened very weel our such stock on this day when the selvent week the selvent deson soldson but to the the edwood Thinday Till The news Cargo Bost work of James Hurangt I Was Davis an should streak lays and the table down of way sem book one. Til se detraine saffer at left the bown the Chanter sales of souther to the left of -u-

24th July

The following morning was dull but dry and we were running through well wooded country with some fine scenery and many small streams intersecting. Our first stop was at Lisieurs for a short time. This was a fairly large town. All the towns that we passed through after leaving the south towns along the beach were not much to look at most of them being old with narrow streets and very old buildings. I did not like them much, they seemed very quiet. Our next stop on this day was Mezidom where we stopped from 12 noon til 1-30pm. This was on Monday the 1sth. The next large town we passed through was Caen an industrial town and the last town of any importance until we detrained. After we left this town the country was very open and I could see many miles of country. To the left of us

24th July

appeared a more modern town as all the buildings seemed to be slated and prior to this in all the towns with the exception of the one around the coast the buildings were all tiled and very very old ones at that. My own impression was that in most places where I could see either slates or newer tiles, these buildings had been rebuilt since the last German occupation in most cases. At this more modern town we passed the finest church I ever saw. There were five large spires and the architecture was splendid and must have taken some time to build. On this day we arrived at Cherbourg at 7-30pm detrained left our kit bags and marched to a rest camp a distance of about three miles. Cherbourg

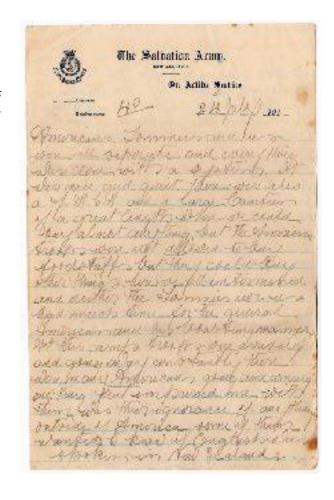
The Salbation Army, On Actibe Strafee. 2h pily in appeared a make all their will below as all the fail tong a memor it to partide, and falses to they we coll. building some all filed and were very the orienal that our sales would summer as a that you would tolder All well on with a colory males tales, their Baileting the about re built since the table berman scentration and cases at the monarcum step, and mental Senest Oderet I come bout the win Lio Lucy store and M. Andrewar has a foliander and must have taken some deme to baile. Don the . day or governant Charleges ut 7 90 PM. determent lift on Rell for a curting of about the market specific or distance of a boung

394 of my one conseption, so false of the sound with it and as I was getting a much a chair very the Daylandy very general ded sections briste with alow answerin ince Comprehe who a fire read the I am he had at the an avenue of the Deep Stay drest lever thereberry former an ida tellatean which hich the plant or hopotal of Butots agree deal compa I have there were freeze was Marganean . As had a doubt Source the still early morning involved, Two not had been before and the fire also the day the salar un weller from got a rest tames

24th July was no exception to the other French towns. I was not at all impressed with it as I was getting a much closer view of the buildings in general did not improve with closer acquaintance. We marched up a fine avenue of trees and most of the roads that I saw in France had an avenue of trees which Italy lacked, but Italy had more fruit trees. However we passed an old chateau which took the place of a hospital for British troops. After a short time we arrived at camp where there were troops of all kinds and many Americans. We had a drink of tea and went under canvas once again. The following morning Tuesday 16th we got up at reveille then we had breakfast and loafed about expecting to go away again that day. This was an ideal place for a rest camp.

24th July

Americans, Tommies and us were all separate and everything was done with a system. It was nice and quiet. There were also a Y.M.C.A. and a large canteen of a great length where we could buy almost anything. But the American troops were not allowed to buy foodstuffs but they could buy other things. Here we all intermixed and neither the Tommies or us had much time for the general American and his boasting manner. At this camp troops were arriving and going away constantly. There were many Americans going and coming, One thing that impressed me with them was their ignorance of anything outside of America. Some of them wanted to know if English was spoken in New Zealand.



before about on the last fill of the fact of the last destroyment will and them to reason years clear a red here considered er tel Composed 1 sologe speciedas to the draw and enclared at Backet on bourn the Ducherses Grante and boulne of 12 science Foot might for Spottening office Obsidering what is vary occultured following I wood with morning all places harful at I Am and the intravally agains of which, Rofte Brigger for Editory Davida agreed. Fry frat May " while that some the lending when are miles drawn Konstorn, Adorrak hajogish to Confine with my or a to to freel fred in 12-20 die jockel für er jocked

24th July

Before closing on France Sweetheart let me tell you that I have collected a silver coin from the different countries I have been in. I will send them to you my dear when convenient. On the following day Wednesday the 17th we left camp at I o'clock and marched to the boat and embarked at 3 o'clock on board the Duchess of Argyle and sailed at 12 o'clock that night for Southampton. Cherbourg was a very scattered place I was not impressed with it. The following morning we disembarked at 7am and we entrained again at 10 o'clock. Those of us who were going into the Rifle Brigade for Brocton Camp, Stafford. The first place I noted of any size was Reading where we were only between thirty and forty miles from London. Then we ran on to Oxford where we stopped from 12-30 till I o'clock then we passed Warwich at 2pm. What impressed

25th July 1918

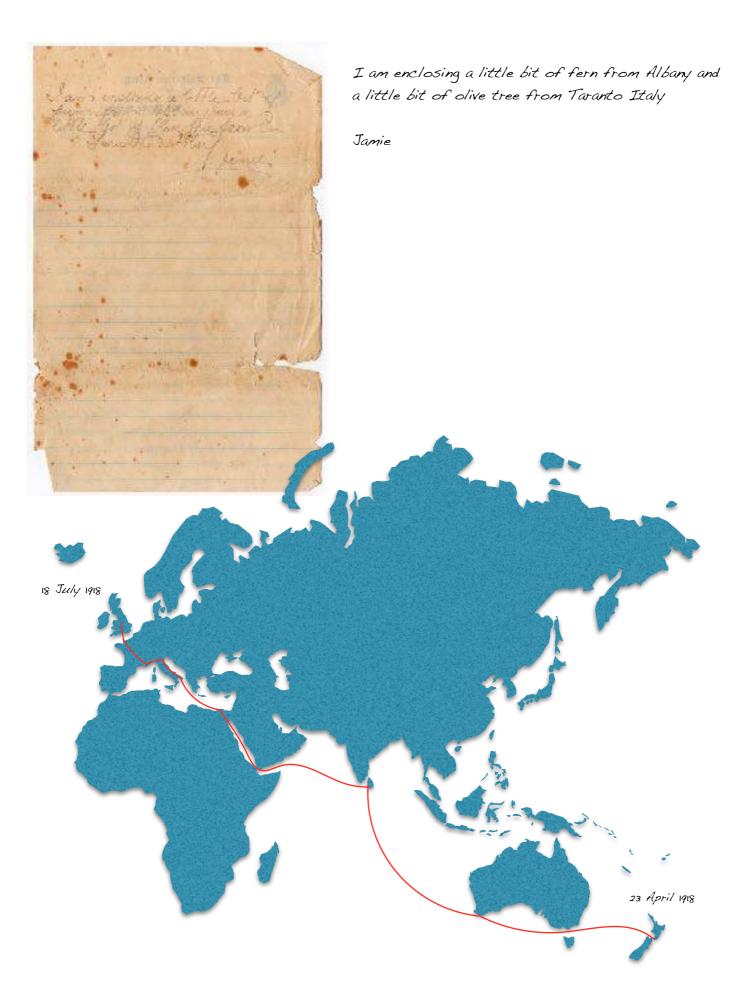
me here was the large amount of country that was not under cultivation but just in grass and not even stock on it. The scenery was all right. Then we passed Birmingham at 2-35 of course there was lots of smoke about it. I felt quite familiar with it. Then we passed Wolverhampton at 3-15 and arrived at Stafford at 3-45 and detrained. Then we marched to to camp at Brocton. So my darling I have completed my diary for you and I hope you will have pleasure in reading it as I have had in writing it. I hope you will get it all right. I will now finish with lots of love and kisses. Your devoted and loving husband xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Jamie

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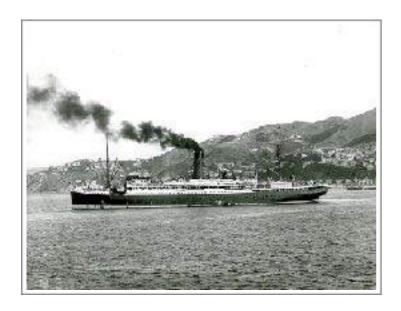
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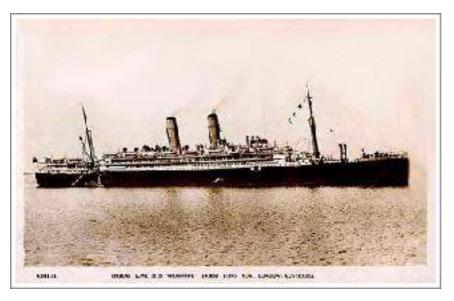
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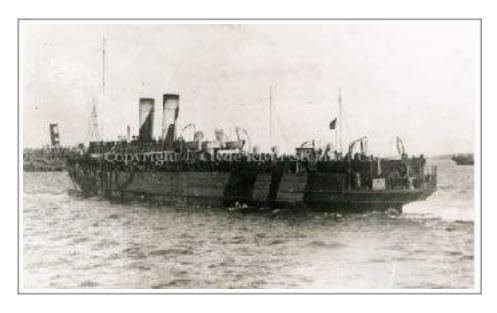
The Ships



SS Willochra Wellington - Albany - Colombo - Suez



SS Ormonde Alexandria - Taranto



Duchess of Argyll Cherbourg - Southampton





This is a view my dear of Ancona, one of the places that we stopped at in Italy.

It is on the coast. Love from Jamie





This is another view of Ancona my dear showing the sea. Hope you will get them all right. Love from Jamie





Another PPC of Italy. A fairly nice one. I am sending two to Lily in place of a letter as I have not a lot of time to write much to them all. I am going to Stafford on Sat if fine I and sending you one of the town. Love from Jamie



Le Tiel, France





My darling wife. This is a view of one of the places we have stopped at my dear. It looks very nice. You will have quite a collection by the time you get these. Love from and kisses your husband Jamie xxxxx





My darling wife. This is a view of a suspension bridge over the Rhone. It is a large river and is very nice at many places. Lots of love and kisses my dear. Your loving husband Jamie xxxxxxxxx

Cherbourg, France





17 July My darling. At present I am in Cherbourg. We have been here for two nights so far. We are supposed to go today across the channel. I can post these here my dear but I am writing them to post later on. I will put the date on them when I can post them. It is an ideal place for a rest camp. There are many Americans here thousands coming &





going all the time. A lot of the Americans left last night for the Italian front. Everything here is done in good style fine dining halls and nice and clean and everything done in order. I hope you will get this PPC all right my dear. They are fairly good ones. I was not struck with the town itself. The people





don't look too clean and the houses don't either. The better class houses look much cleaner. The food here is very good and there is plenty of it. There are several gardens attached to the different encampments here growing all sorts of vegetable. Lots of love and kisses. Your loving husband Jamie

Hastings NZ to Brocton Camp UK

15 Sept 1917	Hastings	Enliste	d.					
18 Oct 1917	Featherston	Posted to 34th Company						
16 Jan 1918	, each en ocon	Rimutaka 3 day route march to Trentham, transferred to 3sth Company on 25 Jan						
6 March 1918	Trentham	Transferred to 36th Company						
23 Apr 1918	Wellington.	Embarked SS Willochra (1500 men)						
3 May 1918	Albany WA	Disembarked						
4 May 1918	racery ber	1030		Colombo				
16 May 1918	Colombo	1030	Embarked for Colombo A few hours shore leave					
18 May 1918	00,0,1,00	0600	Departed for Suez					
26 May 1918	Aden	Passed	•					
31 May 1918	Port Suez	1200	Disembarked. Marched 3 miles to Australian camp					
1 Jun 1918	,		o Rue Colmar					
3 Jul 1918		0530	Struck tents					
3 321 1718		1900	Boarded train trucks					
		2000	Departed for 1		2			
4 Jul 1918	Alexandria	0530	Arrived & embarked on SS Ormonde					
7 327 1718	, (reading), a	1215	SS Ormande departs for Taranto, Italy					
8 Jul 1918	Taranto	1030	Disembarked & rested 5 hours					
7.0		2100	Boarded train					
9 Jul 1918		0030	Train departs					
, , ,	Brindisi	0600	0730	Rest a	break			
	Bari	1400	1530	Rest 6				
	Foggia	2030	2400	Rest 6				
10 July 1918	Basto	0800	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		through			
, , , ,	Pescara	1300	1430	Rest 6	9			
	Ancora	2030	2100	Rest 6				
11 July 1918	Parama	1200	1230	Rest 6	break			
,	Voghina	1645	1800	Rest a	break			
12 July 1918	Savona	0600	0700	Rest a	break			
·	Viana Marina	0930	1030	Rest a	break			
	Vimtirneglia	1400		Passed	through			
	Menton (FR)	1430		Passed	through			
	Monte Carlo	1500		Passed	through			
13 Jul 1918	Carillon			Passed	through			
	Le Teil	1400	1500	Rest C	break			
	Perpraud			15 minu	ite stop			
14 July 1918	Paray le Monaik	1730	1830	Rest a	break			
	Malesburbers	1930	2030	Rest a	break			
	Corbeil-Ossone	2130	2200	Rest a	break			
15 July 1918	Lisieurs			Short	stop			
	Mezidom	1200	1330	Rest a	break			
	Caen			Passed through				
	Cherbourg	1930	Detrained & marched 3 miles to camp					
17 July 1918		1300	Left camp					
		1500	Embarked on Duchess of Argylle					
		2400	Departed for Southampton					
18 July 1918	Southampton	0700	Disembarked & entrained					
		1000	Departed for Brocton Camp					
	Reading	1230	Oxford	1300	Birmingham	1430	Wolverhampton 1515	
	Stafford	1545	Detrained and	marched	to Brocton Camp	o. Poste	d to "C" Company	

Stafford





This is a PPC of Stafford. An old fashioned town but nice and clean after looking at the other foreign towns. I will send you a few more. I will try and get one of the camp. Lots of love and kisses. Your loving husband Jamie





This is a good view of the station and hotel all or nearly all the buildings are built of brick. Love from Jamie





This is a view of the camp my dear. I might be able to get a better one later on. My hut is somewhere near the cross. With love for Jamie





This is another view of the camp my dear. It is taken at a distance from the camp. Lots of love and kisses. Your loving husband Jamie





Another view of the road we pass going into Stafford. There are several shortcuts to it. This view has been taken looking towards camp. You can see just part of the road coming down hill. Lots of love Jamie





This is a view of the links. We pass them going into Stafford and always on route marches. It is a true likeness of the house. Love from Jamie

Field Service



A pretty true picture of the life my dear. Love from Jamie

Western Front





On October the 1st 1918 the New Zealand Infantry Brigade captured the town of Crèvecoeur-sur-l'Escaut, establishing a foothold across the Scheldt Canal. By late October the New Zealand Division had halted outside the fortress town of Le Quesnoy, 25 km to the north-east. On 4 November the New Zealanders captured Le Quesnoy

after scaling the town's historic ramparts with a ladder. This was to be their last significant action of the war; most of the Division was relieved the following day and was still in reserve when an armistice was signed with Germany on 11 November.



Between July and November 1918 the Allies pushed the overstretched and demoralised German army eastward across the area on the map shaded red. By the time an armistice came into effect at 11 a.m. on 11 November (at which point the front line extended along the purple line above), most of Northern France and part of Belgium had been liberated from German occupation.

The conditions of the Armistice gave Germany 14 days to evacuate from all remaining occupied territory and German territory claimed by France and Belgium (the grey-shaded area), and 28 days to withdraw its armed forces across the river Rhine (to the right of the map).

The Allies insisted on sending their armies to occupy the demilitarised Rhineland and establishing 30-km bridgeheads centred on Cologne, Coblenz and Mainz. This was to ensure that Germany would not break the Armistice's ceasefire before the terms of peace could be agreed to. The Allied Forces' respective occupation zones are highlighted in yellow on the map.

When news of the Armistice was received on 11
November, most of the New Zealand Division was
billeted at Beauvois and Fontaine (marked by the number
1 on the map). On 28 November they began their march
towards the British occupation zone around the
industrial city of Cologne (their route is shown by the
red arrow). On 19 December, after a 240-km march, the
New Zealand Division entered German territory. The
infantry then boarded trains and arrived in Cologne next
day, followed on Boxing Day by the artillery units.

From late December, New Zealand soldiers who had volunteered in 1914-15 and those who were married were sent back to England and from there to New Zealand. When it became clear that Germany was not capable of resuming combat, the repatriation process sped up. On 25 March 1919 the last draft of New Zealand soldiers left Cologne.

Army of Occupation

Chenee, Belgium





This is a view of a bridge over which we crossed on entering the town. It is a nice view of the river Vesdre. I think but I am not quite certain of the name. The name was written down by the shopman. You will see it and a cross marking the river. With love Jamie





This is a view of the same bridge my dear but the end and more of the town. We took the road or street leading to the left I have marked. A fairly nice town but any town appears fine after what we left behind. With love from Jamie





This is another part of the town. All these towns have a quaint appearance compared to the towns in the old country. They are mostly all laid with rough cobble stones. With love Jamie

Forville, Belgium





One of the places we halted for a night while on our march to the Rhine I hope you will get these all right my dear with love from your devoted husband Jamie





A view of the shop where I bought these few post cards of Forville with love James





Another view my dear near the same place. It is not always possible my dear to get post cards but I will try and get one at most of the places where we halt. With love from your devoted husband Jamie





Roman tombs near one of the places we passed through in Belgium. With love from and kisses Jamie

Montignies, Belgium





A view of the township of Montignies upon the river Sambre. With love Jamie





The engine room and shaft of one of the numerous coal mines in the district. With love Jamie





At the little shop across from the larger building is where I bought some of these PPC. It is in the corner of the public square of the town. With love Jamie





The railway station of one of the places we halted at. It is upon the river Sambre along the valley of which we marched for some time. With love Jamie

Welkenraedt, Belgium





This is a view of the town at which we stopped for the last night before crossing the border into Germany. With love from Jamie





This is another view of the same town. I had a walk along the street after we landed. With love from Jamie





This is the Belgium railway station my dear. Not the one that we entrained at but the last on Belgian soil at this part of the frontier. With love Jamie

Vinalmont, Belgium





A view of part of the village. Very quiet places they are. With love Jamie



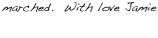


This is the Officers' mess at the place we are at present billeted. With love





I crossed the road here and had a fine view of this country away across the valley which lies to the left of the road and is one of the nicest parts I have so far seen. I have already sent you a view of the roads down which we







This is a view of the grounds through which I walked. They have been neglected very much owing to the war I suppose. Walked all round and came on to the road where I will mark with a X on the other PPC. I tried to obtain one of the building but where sold out. With Love Jamie





A nice view. I think there is another one I must try and get. It is of a road of an avenue of trees which we marched. With love Jamie





I had a walk today my dear and entered through these gates and into the grounds of the chateau, another chap and I. It is quite near where we are billeting. I pulled a twig of in from the gate post on the left. With love Jamie





Interior of the church. There are always a good big churches in all the villages in France and Belgium. Love Jamie





An outside view of this church they are very large compared to the sizes of the villages with love Jamie





I have sent you two or three PPC from this place already but these are different views I saw today. I think I sent you one like one of these but I am not sure, anyhow I did not explain in it what I will do in the next one This is a general view of the place we are at just now but leave tomorrow morning 17th Dec. With love from Jamie





Another view of sacred monument where people can worship when they like. Love Jamie

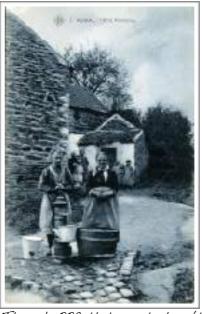
Flemalle-Haute, Belgium





I am not sure my dear whether I have sent you a PPC of this place or not as I had to send the last ones away very hurriedly. However this is one of the places we halted on the river Sambre. A fine view of the country. With love Jamie

Fumal, Belgium





The only PPC that was to he obtained in this place my dear. We move on again tomorrow the 14 Dec. I expect to be back with you my dear long before the next 14th. Lots of love and kisses my dear from your devoted husband Jamie



On our march to the Rhine Jamie



Bensberg, Germany





This is another view of this place the larger building to the right of the church is where we are at present stationed. I had a walk along a fine road today with two other boxs. With love Jamie





This is a view of the entrance to the building I just sent. This was the other day. It has rather a fine appearance. With love from Jamie





This is a view my dear of part of the surroundings near where we are at present. I had a walk along it today for an hour Boxing day with love Jamie



Bonn, Germany



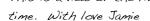
This shows one of the principal places and one end of the University with the square tower. With love Jamie

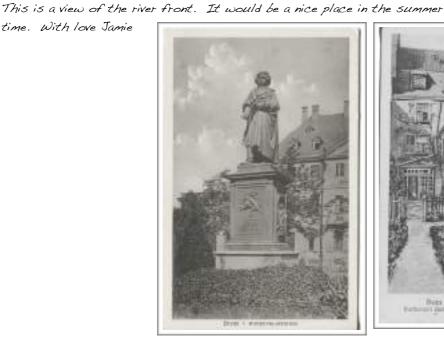






This is a view of the market place. I had a walk round it today. With love Jamie









This is the composers house in which he used to live. I had a look at it but did not go inside.

With love Jamie

Cologne, Germany





This is one of the swing bridges that cross the Rhine. Some of these bridges toll has to be paid to cross it. Of course we can't pay any. With love Jamie





This is a good view of the river front & the two bridges that we generally cross when going in the town. With love Jamie





I am sending you a good lot of views of Cologne my dear. This is one of the bridges over which we marched across the Rhine on the 21 Dec. It is a fine bridge. Statues at each ends of it of the Kaiser and Frederick the Great. Love from Jamie





A view of Mulheim and the bridge of boats. I crossed it the other Sunday. It opens out to allow the the ships to pass up and down. With love Jamie



This is another view of the Hohen-Zollen bridges. You can see the monuments on each sides of it. With love Jamie







This is a view looking across the Rhine and part of the Hohen-Zollen bridge that we marched over coming to here. With love Jamie





This is a view of one end of it my dear. You can see the statues on horse back of the war lords. With love Jamie





This is a view of one of the squares of this town. There are a good few in it. There is a large hotel just to the right. With love Jamie





This is a view my dear of the older town. Some parts of the town are very & date back from the times of the Romans. With love Jamie





This is a view taken from an aeroplane. A fairly good one. With love Jamie





This is a view of the inside of the cathedral. Nearly all the windows in it are coloured glass with biblical figures on them. With love Jamie





This is a view of the east side of the cathedral my dear. That is the side that we come to when we leave the car. With love Jamie





This is a view taken from a height of the surroundings of the cathedral. There are some fine streets near it and others just the opposite. With love James





This is the front entrance to the cathedral. I was at the top of it the other day. It was begun 1260 and finished in 1880. With love Jamie





This card looks nice in a small frame. I have seen them in town. With love James



This is a view my dear of the Heu Market a large square. I have passed the monument several times going towards the cathedral. You can see the domes of it in the distance. With love Jamie







This is their opera house. We can get tickets to it I believe but I wont trouble it much. With love Jamie



This is part of the railway station just over the large bridges. With love Jamie





This is the bell that was made out of the guns captured in the Franko-Prussian war 1870-71 and taken away in this war and melted down. With love Jamie





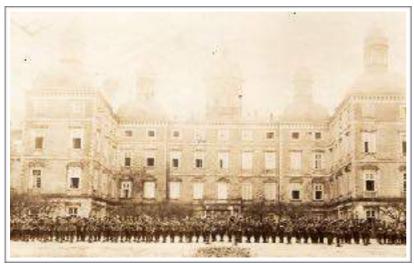


This is a view of the Germans returning across the Rhine after the Armistice was signed. With love Jamie





This is a view of this transport crossing the bridge. You will see his colours and how pleased they are looking. With love Jamie





This is a photo my dear taken of First Battalion on parade and presenting arms. I have a larger one and one of the company. My window is marked by a cross. I am on the extreme left almost. The large one is the best. With love Jamie



" A larger one...

....and one of the Company".

(Front row, 2nd from left)





(Standing, arms behind back, just over the fence from the leader of the band)

Back in Uk

Dundee





This is one of the main thorough-fares of Dundee. With love Jamie





A view of one of Dundee's resorts my dear. I have one or two more I will send you later. With love Jamie





This is one of Dundee's walks and the Tay Bridge in the distance. With love James

Glasgow





This bridge crosses the Clyde and divides the south side. Love from Jamie





This street runs in line with the bridges a fine street love Jamie





How do you like this place my dear. One of the swell streets in Glasgow. Love Jamie





One of Glasgow's famous squares and the Municipal buildings. Love from your husband Jamie

Lanark





This is one of the falls of Clyde I was at the other day my dear. Along with a chum of mine we went up on this motor bike and side car. With love James





This is another falls further in which we also visited and I crossed this bridge you see. With love James





This is a view of the case where William Wallace hid for a time while being pursued by the Sasanachs. I will explain these when I return. With love James

London

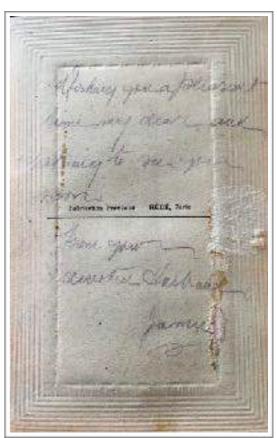




Your mother and I were in St Margarets today my dear. Love from you husband Jamie



Wishing you a pleasant time my dear and hoping to see you soon From your devoted husband Jamie



Picture Post Card Letter



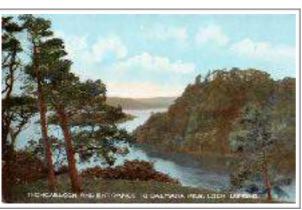














30 May 1919 79 Main St. Cambuslang

My Darling Wife.

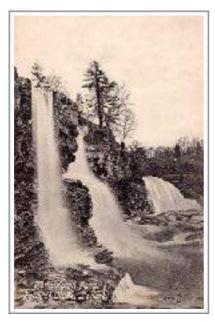
I am writing my letter to you my dear on PPCs as I have a few to send you of different places. I will tell you of these places when I come home. How I wish I was beside you now.

Well sweetheart, I have not very good news to tell you of my folks. I am dreading my going away. I wish it was over. In fact I very much doubt at times if it is the best to see them when they are so feeble because I think that it cuts them up ever so much more when we part again. When one is away it is different somehow. I feel sorry for father because I think he feels it that he won't see me again. Of course mother is ever so much better than he.

I wish I could jump from here to beside you. I am due to leave here on Tuesday night for London. I don't think I will get any more leave. I have slept in many different beds of late, iron bedsteads, wooden ones. holes in the wall and so forth. I remember you used to say sweetheart you liked a wooden one. Well I hope you have managed one to please

I believe you asked or wondered who would be my partners. Well my dear they have been as numerous as the beds I have been in. Some good and quiet others awful kickers & so forth. But there is only one in the world for me & that is you sweetheart. Many a time I have hugged you in my imagination which I hope will be reality ere long. That will be the time my dear eh?

By the way if you see any furniture that you would like at any of those sales & of course if you reckon it cheap or worth the cash get it my dear. It can be sold again if necessary. And don't forget no hard chair for me to sit on or perhaps

















you would rather wait till I returned before buying one. But I was suggesting it on the chance that you might get one at some of those house sales you go to. However my dear. Ye ken what's afore ye if there nae couch to have a rest on or a guid chair I be lying on the bed, so I gaeing ye fair warmin.

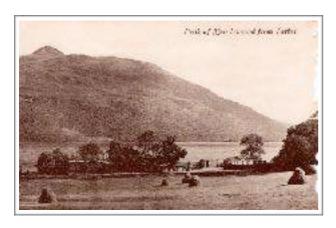
The weather has been splendid since I came up on leave this time and it is fairly warm. I will not get that letter of Fred's until I return to camp but I thoroughly understand the position. I told your mother plain & straight that she had two sons who could look after her while I was the only one in our family & I had both my folks to see to & surely it was a fair thing for Fred & Arthur to look after her even after they were married as I had to look after my folks & I was married. I did not beat away about the bush & I did not care how she took it. It was only fair.

You certainly have been too soft in the past my dear but things will alter now & you will have a home of your own to keep & perhaps a little Annie or Jamie or maybe both one never knows do they my dear. I do not consider it the least fair at all to ask you after all that you have done. I expect your mother thought a bit when she knew that you were married. If there had been no sons it would have been different but they can better afford it than you & what is more it is their business to do so.

And again when your young sister was put out that also their owing money & not your. Really my dear they have not a leg to stand & that is the position I stand by













I suppose they think that you should not have got married at all but let them do it. Well you are married & they are not & even when they do it does not alter things a wee bit so far as you are concerned. I half wish I had kept a copy of what I said just to let you see it. However I thought things out well & I can see no reason to change my mind and your mother had a good nerve to ask you for anything for your Grandfather's funeral & Arthur there & he got almost full pay all the time he was in the army.

I will change the julyiet for a more pleasant one my dear. I wish I could tell you how much I love you and how I wish I could hear you tell me the same. But you know I love you don't you sweetheart. Still you like me to say so I think.

As the time draws nigh I am picturing our meeting you on the wharf at Wellington.

I am taking another run to Dundee. I would liked to have stopped longer there but I can't. Still I have done very well there I think & Lily should be pleased. I was seeing some of my relations at Wishaw the other day. I got myself measured for a new suit and Mr Muir is bringing it out with him he expects. These are some views of some of the places I have seen

















and a few I have not seen. There are also a few PPCs of Codford Village on the Salisbury Plains where our camp is. Well my dear, I am not looking forward to my sail on the transport, but as I told the doctor I am looking forward to getting off it.

Don't make any promises as to when we will be in Hastings but if you want to let anyone know you can leave it open and send them a wire.

I don't suppose I will eat much on the boat so I fancy I will be run down when I land so you will have a chance to show your skill in giving me some nourishing food. What price cysters. Eh. Ugh. I don't think. We shall see I may cultivate a taste for them on my return.

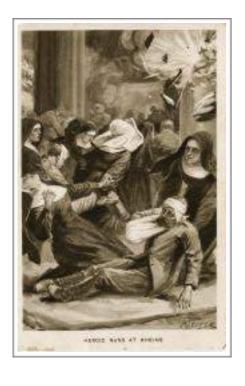
I will bring a few things back with me so I will have to watch them when on board ship & especially towards the latter end of the voyage. You will think that I have spend all my money on postcards, still they will be nice to look at & describe the places to you in our own Little Grey Home in the west.

I will once again close my dear with all my love.

From your true and loving husband.

Jamie xxxxxxxx

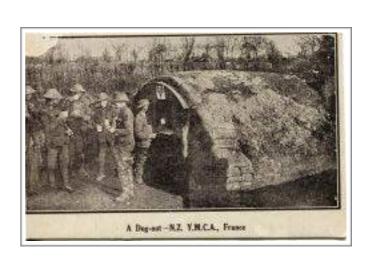
Un-messaged Postcards











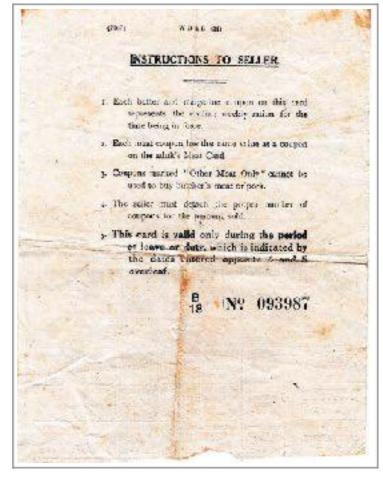




UK Military Camps







Field Service & Return to NZ

21 Sep 1918 Brocton Camp Left camp for France Etaples (FR) 23 Sep 1918 27 Sep 1918 Cambrai Joined Battalion. Posted to "D" Coy in field 1st Batt NZRB. Crevecoeur 0330 1st/2nd Brigade advance from Cambrai over l'Escaut Canal to 29 Sep 1918 Crevecoeur. Heavy fighting by 1st Brigade to capture Crevecoeur. Australian sth Div on right, NZ in the middle, British 62nd Div on left. 3 Oct 1918 3rd Brigade replaced 1st. Germans in nearby Cheneaux Wood. Took over 1st Akalong Road running north towards Cambrai. 2nd/NZRB continue to advance through Serranvillers/Esnes/Fontaine-au Pire/Beauvois-en-Cambresis. Sent to strengthen D Coy. Engaged Germans gam. D Coy advance drive Germans from Cheneaux Woods. Gain footing in Masnieres Switch. J Preacher's platoon advance towards Old Mill of Lesdain. Germans retreating. J Preacher killed in action Le Cateau, buried Crevecoeur Cemetery. 8-12 Oct 1918 Engagement with Germans. 2nd Battle of Le Cateau British & NZRB force retreat for 11 miles. NZRB involved with liberation Battle of the Sambre. NZRB circle Le Quesnoy. 4-5 NOV 1918 4 NOV 1918 Wounded in action - left thigh. Le Quesnoy 6 NOV 1918 Abbeville Admitted I.S.A. Base Hospital. Armistice Day 11 NOV 1918 16 NOV 1918 Etaples Marched to base. 21 NOV 1918 Rejoined battalion. Montignies - sur - Sambre. 7 Dec 1918 Charleroi 11 Dec 1918 Forville Namur Province. Halted on march to the Rhine. Fumal 13 Dec 1918 Flemalle-Haute II miles from Vinalmont. Suburb of Liege. Chenee Vinalmont 17 Dec 1918 Welkenraedt 19 Dec 1918 Verviers. 20 Dec 1918 Koln (Cologne). Crossed Rhine. 21 Dec 1918 26 Dec 1918 Bensberg Jan 1919 Announcement that NZ troops to leave occupation Rouen 21 Mar 1919 Troop train from Kohn. Army of Occupation disbanded 25 March 1919 Sling Camp 9 April 1919 Bulford 10 April 1919 Codford Depot Special vote for referendum on prohibition 13th -30th May Leave Glasgow, Lanark, Dundee, Cambuslang 3 Jun 1919 Sling Camp. (Possibly contributed to hillside Kiwi emblem) Bulford 28 Jul 1919 Plymouth Embarked for NZ on SS Hororata 20 Sep 1919 Wellington

18 Oct 1919

Discharged



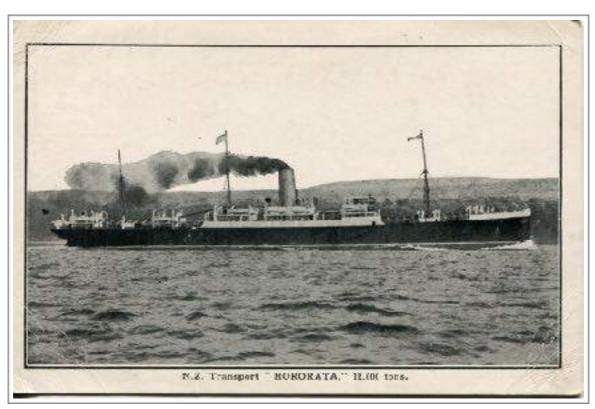


British War Medal

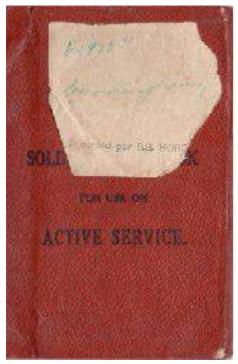
Victory Medal

Overseas: 1 year 151 days

Total Service: 2 years 1 day



SS Hororata UK - Wellington

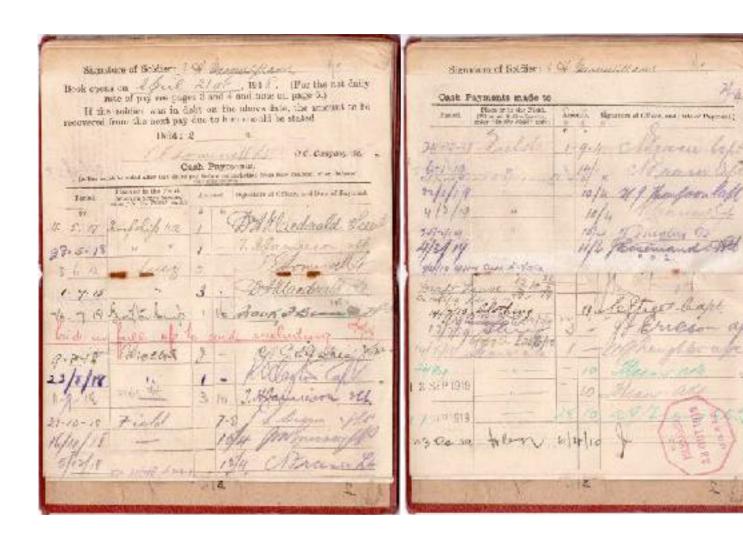


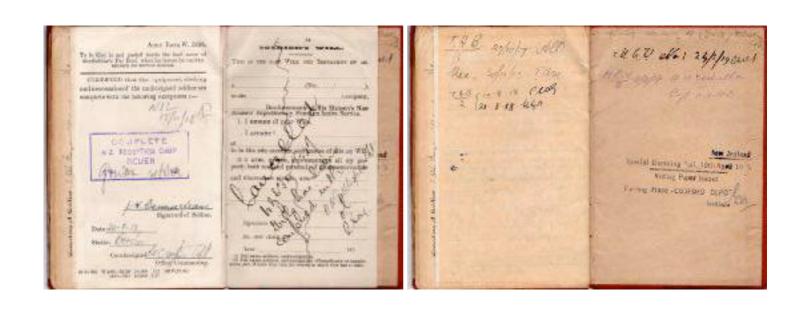
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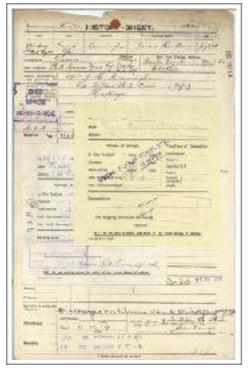
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Army Records







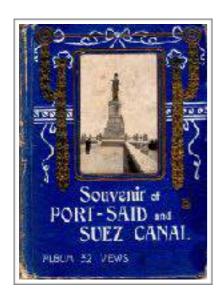




Keepsakes

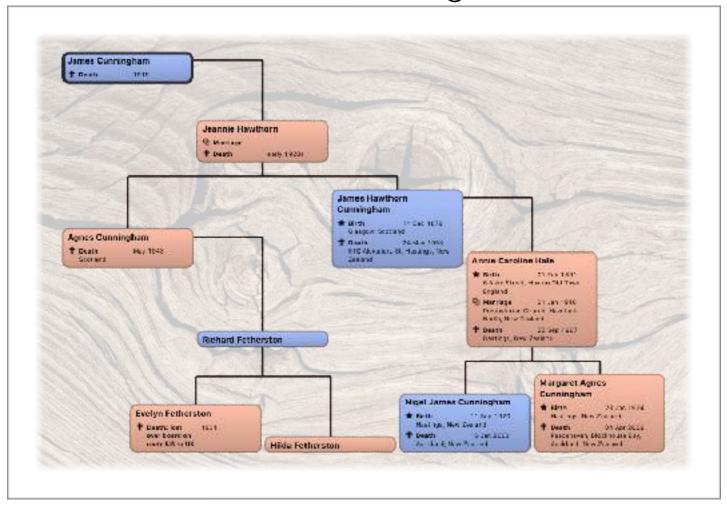








A Daughter's Memories



James Hawthorn Cunningham was the only son of James and Jeannie Cunningham, nee Hawthorn. He had one sister — Agnes.
James Hawthorn was born in Glasgow on 14
December 1879 and died on 24 May 1953.

Jamie, as he was known, was brought up in Motherwell, where his father worked in the coal mines. At the age of ten he went to work looking after the pit ponies. He told me how he hugged the ponies for warmth in the winter cold. While Jamie's formal education did not last long he had a great thirst for knowledge and he read both prose and poetry extensively: he could quote Robbie Burns in detail.

In due course he left the mines and went to work in the steel mills of Glasgow. What he saw of conditions in the mines and mills had a profound effect on his thinking and reading: he felt that the world should be a better place for working folk. This resulted in his adoption of socialist beliefs and he went to hear speakers such as Keir Hardy (the first British Labour MP).

Life was pleasant for him as a young man. He hiked about the countryside with his friends, joined the Masonic Lodge and enjoyed dances and concerts. He told me that when he took a young lady to a dance they always travelled in a hansom cab. He used to holiday on the Isle of Man.

Agnes, his sister, married Richard
Fetherston, whom James did not consider a
suitable husband. They emigrated to the
United States and had two daughters but
later they divorced. One daughter, Evelyn,
was lost overboard travelling to Britain in 1931.
Over the years Jamie helped Agnes financially
to set up in business on Long Island, New
York. She died in Scotland in the 1940s. The
younger daughter, Hilda, lived in New York but
after 1959 contact with her was lost.

Jamie had read of New Zealand and knew about Richard John Seddon, old age pensions, votes for women and the radical miners at Blackball on the West Coast. He considered the country warranted a closer look and in 1910 he emigrated. He paid his own fare and went first to the West Coast, where he obtained a job delivering milk in Granity: no mine work for him. He moved around the South Island always managing to obtain work. In due course he came to Wellington and from there to Hawke's Bay, where he worked on construction of Whakatu Freezing Works. When building was completed he was offered a job in the engine room as a greaser.

He lived at Whakatu and as he had a pleasing singing voice he was a popular performer at musical evenings. War came in 1914 but being pacifist by nature Jamie waited to be conscripted. He entered Featherston Military Camp in 1917. He had been courting Annie Hale and they became engaged. On New Year's Day in 1918 they were married in the Presbyterian Church at Havelock North. Annie had told him she didn't approve of a

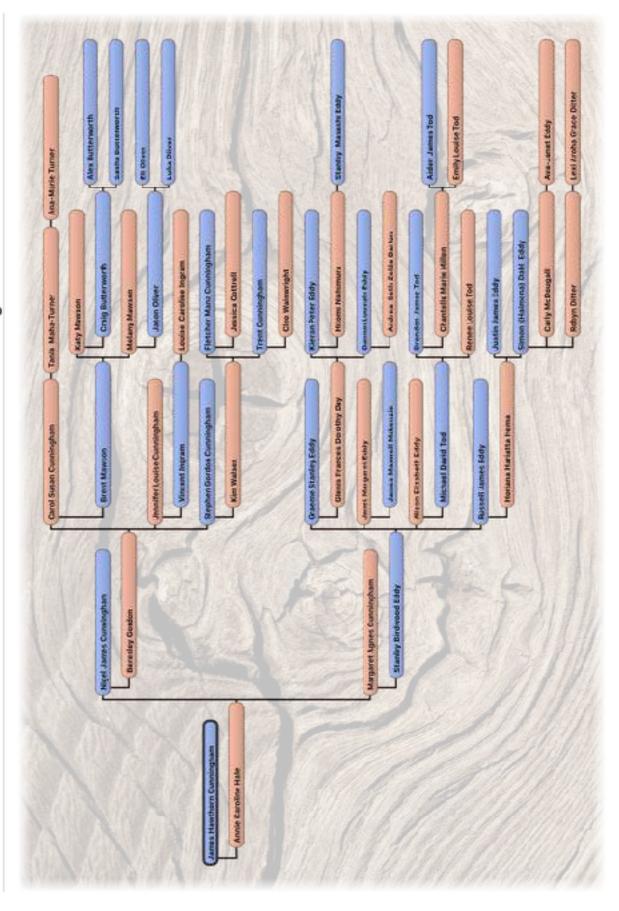
husband being too much older than his wife so he gave his age as thirty—three on the marriage certificate when it was actually thirty—nine. Annie was twenty—six. It was to be many years before Annie discovered his real age but by that time all was forgiven.

He left with the New Zealand forces on 23
April 1918. He was in the rifle brigade. The
troop ship travelled via Albany, Australia, and
Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to camp at Suez.
Thence, by way of Italy and France, to
Brockton Camp in England. He kept a diary of
the whole trip. From Brockton he went back
to France with the rifle brigade and was
wounded in the thigh just prior to the
armistice on 11 November 1918. After he
recovered he marched with the Army of
Occupation as far as Cologne in Germany,
returning to England in 1919.

During the march to Germany he collected many postcards. He wrote a continuous letter on them and sent them back to Annie. While in Britain he was able to visit his elderly parents in Scotland. His father was ailing and he saw him for the last time in 1919 before he returned to New Zealand. His father died soon after and his mother, Jeannie, passed away in the early 1920's.

Margaret Eddy

(From her book" The Way Things Used to Be" 2000)



Descendant Chart James Hawthorn Cunningham

