

## Transcript

### Arthur Iden Leeder Diary, 1918 – 1919

#### Leeder family fonds, series 3 (Journals), Item A991.047.B5.F7

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6 Weirhill Place, Melrose, Scotland

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KILCOURSI GEELONG

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July 27: Left London 5:15 p.m. Passed through Woodstock. Stopped in Galt for a while. Reached Toronto about 9.30. Travelled all night and reached Smith Falls Sunday morning. Fellows hoarse from yelling last night. Reached Montreal about 10:30 July 28 and were all on the boat in a short time. Left about 1:30 and have had a fine trip. We anchored for the night about dark. Some very fine scenery. July 29 were on our way early this morning. Were assigned to our life boats and rafts this morning. WE passed under the famous Quebec bridge this morning.

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Truly a wonderful sight as I passed the city of Quebec this morning. I saw where General Wolfe landed and went up the bank, buildings all along the river.

July 30: We have been going all last night and today. We had drill twice today. Yesterday we were assigned to our life boats and rafts. Mine is raft 44 and there are 24 of us to trust to it if anything happens. Today has been a little rough, the water spraying the decks considerably making it disagreeable to be out part of the time. This morning they had removed the

name of the boat which is the Bellerophon. She has been an old freight boat and has poor accommodations for troops. There are between 11 and 200 troops aboard from London, Niagara, Toronto, Kingston and Alberta. Tonight they lowered the mine sweepers. We have to wear our life belts all the time.

July 31: We are still on our way. It has been a fine day and during the morning we drew close to land and about noon entered the narrows. It is a narrow body of water separating Cape Breton from Nova Scotia. The scenery is rough but the air is mild. It was calm and fine sailing but is getting rougher and cooler. I wrote home today, towards evening we ran into a heavy fog bank.

Aug. 1: We entered Halifax this morning about 6 am and passed the city, went through the narrows where the great explosion took place and came to anchor in the basin. Another troop ship there with the 97 draft aboard. We may have to wait here for some time as our convoy boats have gone. They have nearly all the wreckage cleared up that was destroyed by the explosion, a very fine day. Halifax 6 hours ahead of ours, a very fine harbour here and very secure.

Aug. 2: We have been in Halifax all day, not much doing. I was mess orderly today. This morning some of our boys went for a row in the small boats and this afternoon they went swimming. More boats came in today, about 9 here now. No more drill till further orders. American soldiers on one of the boats.

Aug. 3: Today was a miserable wet day and we had to keep below most of the day, faired up in the afternoon and evening. Three big troop trains pulled in today. Wonder where they are from? Wrote to Grandpas today. Gen. C. A. Man brought magazines and so forth tonight.

Aug. 4: Sunday: A very fine day and no chance to get to church and no service aboard the boat, a red letter day as we left Halifax for England. We raised anchor and left the basin about 1:30 and were clear of the harbour by 3:30. It is some sight. There are 17 or 18 large boats and a cruiser, also three small destroyers. We steamed out in single file and about 5:30 the leading boats waited for the others and we formed up for the trip. Can hardly describe the sight of all these boats together. The sea is fine and I am feeling fine. They are strict on discipline again, have to have life belts on all the time now. 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of start of war.

Aug. 5: A very fine morning and we are still going East, running into the sun. Saw quite a number of porpoise today. We have an interesting cargo on

board, this boat's ammunition directly below us and wheat in the lower hold and hard to say what else. A very fine day all day and I am feeling fine.

Aug 6: The sky is cloudy this morning and a breeze blowing the sea a little choppy, but not bad. Reported this morning that the boat we came nearly running into in the fog in the St. Lawrence was torpedoed 35 miles out of Halifax yesterday sometime. Dull all day and rain. Air cruiser has been very busy today watching to the north of us. Submarines reported following us. I am warned for guard or picket tonight, go on from 12 to 4 and a very miserable night to start on.

Aug 7: I was on guard twice today from 12 to 4 both night and day, takes 4 hours, quite a while to pass. We are to guard the life boats against a rush of the troops to get in them in case anything happens to the ship. We have a [hoss]? rifle and 5 rounds of ammo. I missed my first meal today. The boat was rolling badly and I was not able to eat breakfast, dull all day.

Aug 8: I came off guard at 4 am and it was the roughest time I ever put on the water. The ship rolled terrible but through prayer I was permitted to come through fine. I was on guard again this afternoon. The sea has been rolling all day but is calming down now I believe.

Aug. 9: I have been on guard twice again, nothing important. One of the ships was firing at something after dinner, do not know what. I am not feeling well, the ship is in a dead roll, did not eat tonight. Guess we are nearly half way over now, saw a sailing vessel this afternoon. The doctor is sick and no sick parade tonight.

Aug. 10: I was on guard twice today, a fine day with quite a swell running. The boat is rolling considerably, making it unpleasant for some. I am feeling fairly well. The boat zig zagged a great deal this afternoon, rumoured that we may reach fort next Wednesday if all goes well.

Aug. 11: Sunday: A fine day. The ship is steadier. I came off guard at 4 am, did not have to go on again. Bath parade this afternoon. Francis Shaw, Sylvester Bissner and I got together and studied our S.S. lesson this afternoon. At our 9:30 am parade we were called to attention for a couple of minutes while a burial took place from one of the other boats, do not know for certain who it was. We are getting into the danger zone. Tonight all hands had to stay on deck from 630 to 8 in case of emergency and are warned to be on deck at 345 tomorrow morning. Boats are in a different formation tonight. I am feeling very good tonight.

Aug 12: A very fine day. We were out on deck at 345 this morning and waited till about 6 or good daylight. Nothing unusual today, supposed to sight land tomorrow and get in port about Thursday. Our additional escort is expected tomorrow, am feeling fine.

Aug. 13: We were up on deck at 345 am again, a very strong wind blowing, sending the spray over the deck, giving many a free bath. Our escort arrived about 6am, about 6 American destroyers. They are very fast, expect more as we get closer. We expect to land at Liverpool. I am feeling fine.

Aug 14: We were up on deck at 345 again this morning and it is a fine day. We have another destroyer with us. It is a British one and very fast. I saw sea gulls today, also a British submarine. Some of our boats left us today for another port. We came around to the south of Ireland and are in the Irish Sea tonight, but I am unable to sight land yet. We expect to land tomorrow sometime. The sea is very calm and fine sailing. I am feeling fine.

Aug 15: We were up at 330 this morning. We are going up the Irish Sea. Can see lights from lighthouses flashing on the English coast. Sighted land about 5 am, certainly glad to see it. I was mess orderly so had to be down below most of the time. We got into the harbor about noon and went to the docks immediately. We had dinner and then got ready to leave the boat, which we did about 2 pm and marched around to the train just off the docks and boarded it. We pulled out shortly. YMCA gave us coffee and cakes. Many a laugh at the English trains but they travel very fast. We passed through Crewe, Stafford, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Oxford, Aldershot and left the train at Farnham. After traveling from about 2 pm till nearly midnight we were given a great welcome by the English people everywhere. I saw the American flag at many places. 21 coaches on our train, some very pretty places that we passed through, all alike, mostly built of red brick. Chimneys all in a row and chimney [ ]? On them. We set out for camp shortly after 12 and had to march and carry our full outfit and in dark. They said it was 4 ½ miles but it seemed like double that but good roads. We finally got to camp about 230 am and were assigned to our tent, 10 to a tent and were given a lunch. That was the same day, up at 330 and got to bed next morning about 3 am.

Aug 16: We got up about 8 am, had breakfast and are resting up a bit. Sent a cable home, got a medical inspection this afternoon and a bath parade to the pond this evening. Got my money changed and banked part of it. Canadian silver worth about 90 cents on the \$1. Bills worth more. Saw a

fellow from Whitley camp that knows Herb. He is still there and was over last evening to see me but I had not arrived yet. He may go to France in a day or two. 97 draft arrived tonight. They had a terrible trip. 4 or 5 died on the way over. Kline was one of them. Boat overloaded, not room enough to move about. Francis Shaw and I together as much as possible.

Aug. 17: A showery day. We are not doing much, were called out on parade for Kit inspection, spread all our stuff out and had to put it all back again without getting it looked over. We had the law read to us. It is quite strict. Herb came over today, wheeled from Whitley camp. He has grown some and is stouter and looks fine. We had a fine talk. He is on draft to go to France tonight or soon, told some of the conditions in England. They are terrible. He had to leave shortly after 5 pm. Gordon Brown and Fuller came in with the 97 drafts. Herb gave me 2 pounds which I put in the bank with mine.

Aug. 18: A fine day. We were called out for Kit inspection and formed up in new platoons and assigned to different tents. Wrote some letters in the afternoon. In the evening 5 of us met and held Sunday school or studied our lessons. A fine time and are going to meet Wednesday evening again for prayer.

Aug. 19: Cloudy but fine. We were given some drill again starting at the first. Were called out in the afternoon on parade and were asked where we were born, also our fathers. Have been writing letters the rest of the afternoon in the YMCA. Author of Rock of Ages born in the town of Farnham about 3 miles from here. Heard the draft has left for France last evening. Wonder if Herb is away with them.

Aug. 20: We were up on dental parade. This morning they just looked at our teeth and this afternoon was called out with some others to go before the Intelligence board and had to answer all kinds of questions for them in regards to where I was born and parents and grandparents, my age, where I have lived, what I have worked at, Religion and general description. Kept clear rest of day.

Aug. 21: We were out on parade this morning and up for throat treatment, also got paid 1 pound. In the afternoon we were issued our [harness]? And shown how to put it together now for polishing. The wet canteen was very busy this evening as the boys all had money and it was terrible around camp as many had too much. A fine day.

Aug. 22: We were out on the general parade grounds this morning, were out on parade this afternoon, were shown a model platoon, all wounded and returned from France. Had a parade and changed our tents after supper, just 4 times in one week that we have been here, also a bathing parade and a time up to get our laundry in. Not much time for polishing tonight. Were told we all had to sleep outside tonight and would get another blanket. Fine day.

Aug. 23: Had to get up at 5:30 this morning, breakfast at 6. Guess they will get us up in the middle of the night to give us a lunch. Slept out last night but did not get the extra blanket. Got our first mail today, one from Pearl. Heard the guns in France. They started a drive there again. We got our extra blanket today and had to line up and pay 4 pence for haircuts which we have not got. They seem to try to gouge the soldiers at every turn. A drizzly evening.

Aug. 24: A fine day. We were out on parade all morning and had the afternoon off but had to help put up some new tents. The camp barber is reported drowned in the pond this evening.

Aug. 25: A cloudy day. They were searching all day for the body but have not found it yet. We were on church parade this morning and this afternoon were called out on parade and our tents were changed again, just the 5<sup>th</sup> time since we came here. Eight to a tent now. We went out and studied our S.S. lesson today. Tommy Stewart was over yesterday and he had a letter from Herb. He got to France alright. A wet evening.

Aug. 26: We were on parade today, got our first bombing lecture this morning, and reported that they had located the body in the Lake. I sent home a bunch of postcards to Carl and views of Whitley to another. A fine day.

Aug. 27: Were out on parade all morning. It started raining at noon, were out on parade all afternoon, a drizzly time. Wrote a letter to Aunt Hannah.

Aug. 28: We were on parade all day, part of the time a little damp. Are still searching for the body in the lake. Got our laundry back tonight and most are well satisfied.

Aug. 29: We were on parade all morning and in the afternoon got our first instruction on the use of the gas mask, also a smell of the gas used over there. It sure is strong, makes your eyes water for some time. The body was found in the lake today. A fine day.

Aug. 30: We were out on parade this morning but were called in at the beginning of the last period and were placed under close quarantine, one was taken out of 77 draft with Spinal Meningitis. We were not allowed on the batt parade ground. The funeral was held this afternoon of the drowned soldier, a military funeral. We were marched up the road and called to attention while the funeral passed us, then back and drilled again. We cannot go to our mess tent for meals and changed tents again this evening, 6 to a tent. A fine day.

Aug. 31: We were out on our company parade grounds this morning, did not drill very hard. We had the afternoon off. Did not do very much, are eating in our mess tents again. We are still under quarantine. A fine day but cool wind.

Sept. 1: We were out on church parade this morning, 77 draft along. A miserable day, wind very cool and no place to go. It was get out of here and keep away from there and hungry most all day, could not seem to get enough to eat. Wrote to May today. First papers cam last night and were busy reading them today. A fair day.

Sept. 2: We slept outside last night and it was too warm. We were on parade this morning. I was sent for a haircut and got it clipped close. We were on parade this afternoon, cannot get enough to eat. A drizzly afternoon.

Sept. 3: We were on parade this morning, squad drill. Went on a fumigation parade this morning and also this afternoon but did not get anything done, laid around all afternoon. Quarantine is still on and it is very miserable. A fine day.

Sept. 4: I went on a fumigation parade this morning and got back at noon. I was very fortunate in getting most of my own clothes and belongings back ok. Some of the others were not so fortunate. We were on parade the rest of the day. We are having to sleep outside again and it is not very nice some nights. A fine day.

Sept. 5; We were on parade this morning, slept outside last night and had to come in as it rained. We had 247 on parade this morning out of 404 that left London. A few orderlies not counted, most are in the Hospitals. Guess we ought to move soon. We were on parade in the afternoon and went on a bombing instruction for most of the afternoon.

Sept. 6: We were on parade all day and in the evening were over on the general parade grounds for sports against # 10 block.

Sept. 7: We were on parade in the morning and then were marched up to the hill and some of the boys were inoculated that had not received their third one. In the afternoon we had to sign a sheet showing all the issued stuff we had received. A fine day, are still sleeping outside.

Sept. 8; Sunday and it is a very wet morning, writing letters most of the time. Showery all day, no parade for 77. Wrote letters, no word from home. Cleared up in the evening, slept outside.

Sept. 9: We were on parade this morning. P.T. first, then over for two periods of bombing instruction. Went on parade in the afternoon and finished the sports in the last period. Started raining in the evening and was a wet night, the water running through our tent and no floor to keep us out of it, part of a soldier's life.

Sept. 10: We were on parade all morning and were on P.T. after dinner when it started to rain and we were dismissed. Nothing doing the rest of the day.

Sept. 11: We were on parade all day and in the evening were told that our quarantine would be lifted Friday morning and we would go to Whitley Friday evening.

Sept. 12: We were on parade all day, had a bombing lecture in the morning and at 7 pm were called on parade with our full marching order and were inspected. We are sleeping in our tents again. The nights are cool.

Sept. 13: Up in good time and turned in all our blankets, cleaned up our lines and so forth. Had a vermin inspection after dinner and then were lined up in full marching order and left Frensham pond about 4 pm for Whitley. A happy bunch as we were out of quarantine and are in hopes of getting better food and more of it. A march of 7 or 8 miles, arrived about 7 and were sent to hut # G2.47. We are in D Co. and fine accommodation. There are 32 of us in the hut. Saw some of the boys who were in London last winter, Tommy Stewart and others. Had supper rather late and then to bed.

Sept. 14: A wet day. We were lined up and paraded for our rifles and bayonets, a change as we have had none for a month and a half. In the afternoon we polished up and were around camp some. Got my first word from Herb, also a letter from Jack.

Sept. 15: A cloudy morning. I was hut orderly for the Sergeant's hut this morning and in the afternoon polished up and was up to Tin Town. A fine

afternoon. We were in quarantine again, a case of mumps in our hut. We eat in our hut, cannot go to dining room.

Sept. 16: We were on parade this morning at 7 am. P.T. for half hour and on rifle drill at 8 for the rest of the morning. This afternoon we got our gas mask turned in our extra kit bay and got another pair of shoes. A cloudy day. Were on muster parade at 5 pm. Our hut is quarantined, one door wired shut. Heard of a number of Port boys in camp tonight, also that 1500 had landed in Liverpool from London.

Sept. 17: We were on parade this morning. Were taken up on dental parade in the morning and were on gas mask drill after dinner, then a lecture by our O.C. A fine day.

Sept. 18: We were on P.T this morning, then bayonet practice and then we were called out on fire picket for a week. We had our first route march this afternoon, not very long, some very fine scenery.

Sept. 19: We were on parade all morning. Some of the boys are getting their landing leaves. Tomorrow we are still on quarantine so cannot go. Had bombing lectures this afternoon. A showery day.

Sept. 20: The boys are away on their landing leave this morning and our huts have to stay. We were out on parade, P.T., I.T. and bayonet and after dinner gas mask. Were dismissed after 1<sup>st</sup> period to get ready for picket for the C.S.G. hospital. A showery day.

Sept. 21: We were on picket all last night and chilly day.

Sept. 22: We were on church parade this morning and then had to Blanco our harness and clean everything up. A cloudy and showery day.

Sept. 23: I was on fatigue today, back farming again digging potatoes belonging to the 4<sup>th</sup> Res. Batt. Canadians. Of course we soldiered at ti, used a short handled shovel to dig them. The 97 draft came in tonight, was talking to Gordon and Charlie. A wet day.

Sept. 24: I was on dining room fatigue again today. It is rather long hours, had some good feeds. A fine day.

Sept. 25: I was on dining room fatigue again today. It is rather long hours. The boys are coming back from pass tonight, was told tonight that we will be on the square tomorrow as we are quarantined. We cannot work in dining room anymore. A fine day.

Sept. 26: We were on parade today, were inspected by a Lieut. Col. This morning, then a lecture on the service rifle, a lecture on gas drill after dinner and were dismissed at 3 pm to get ready for a route march tonight. It turned out a wet evening and at the time we were to start on our march the bugle blew, no parade, weren't we a happy bunch as a 4 hour march in heavy marching order is no sport.

Sept. 27: We were on parade this morning, P.T. first, then musketry the rest of the morning and gas drill the rest of the afternoon. A fine day.

Sept. 28: We were out on P.T. this morning and then gas drill. We were to go through the gas chamber Tuesday. We had the afternoon off and had to wash our bed boards and so forth. A fine day.

Sept. 29: We were out on church parade this morning. It started raining about noon and we are showering in our huts. It kept raining all afternoon and night. We were to the Salvation Army hut this evening. It is very chilly.

Sept. 30: We were out on parade this morning, P.T., then gas drill till noon and in the afternoon a lecture and then bayonets drill. A fine cool day.

Oct. 1: We were issued our new gas masks this morning and were put through our gas tests and through the gas house, passed mine. In the afternoon we got another lecture and then musketry. A fine cool day.

Oct. 2: We were out on a route march this morning to Godalming and back in heavy marching order. I stood it very well. We were out on musketry for one period this afternoon, then dismissed for a football match after. A fine day, cloudy.

Oct. 3: We were on parade all day, P.T., then bayonets, then musketry and bayonets and musketry in the afternoon. A cool day.

Oct. 4: We were on parade all day, musketry most of the time, P.T. in the morning. Some of the 97 draft away on leave today. A fine cool day.

Oct. 5: We were on parade this morning, P.T., then musketry and then turned in our R.E. rifles and got our service rifle, a fine one, brand new. We were cleaning our outfit and so forth all afternoon. Cloudy and cool.

Oct. 6: Sunday: I was on hut orderly this morning, scrubbing out our hut in the afternoon. We four met for sacrament service, had a very good gathering. A wet morning, chilly.

Oct. 7: We were on parade today, P.T., then musketry all the rest of the day. Showery part of the time, cool.

Oct. 8: We were on parade all day, P.T., then musketry, were to the miniature ranges first, then to the 30 yd. ranges and fired service ammunition, then on musketry all afternoon. A showery day, cool.

Oct. 9: We were on parade this morning, the musketry and were called out for to go to the ranges tomorrow. We were paid 1 pound 10 today. A wet day.

Oct. 10: We were up early and all packed up and left for Mutchhett near Aldershott to fire our G.M.C.. It was some march. Arrived at 12, had dinner and were off most of the afternoon. Saw them threshing on the way over. We were in fine huts here and are still quarantined.

Oct. 11: We were up early, had breakfast and away to the ranges. A cloudy and wet morning. I did fair, made five bulls out of five shots and had a 4" group = 25 points, the full score. I prayed to make a good score and got it. This afternoon had a lecture and musketry. A wet afternoon.

Oct. 12: We were on musketry this morning, had an early dinner and then went to the ranges and fired at 2, 3 and 4 hundred yards and made 16, 14 and 12 points out of 20. A fine day.

Oct. 13: Sunday. We had to go to the ranges this morning at 7 to shoot. I did my poorest shooting this morning. Church service for our bunch at 11 am but as our hut was contacts we were not allowed to go. I wrote some letters in the afternoon. A fine day.

Oct. 14: We were out on musketry drill this morning but it started to rain so came back to our huts, went to ranges at 12:30 and did very fair shooting. A dull day.

Oct. 15: We were to the ranges this morning, shooting our classification. I did fair. We were on musketry drill and in the afternoon went to the ranges to finish our classification course, made 96 points so am a 1<sup>st</sup> class shot. A fair day.

Oct. 17: We went to the ranges this morning for battle practice, shooting with gas masks on and so forth and in the afternoon were out on battle practice manoeuvres. A fine day.

Oct. 18: We were out on a short route march to warm up this morning and then practised going over the top and attacking and in the afternoon had the real thing out on the ranges. We were issued 50 rounds of ammunition and we made some noise. A foggy and chilly morning. Saw a large number of air ships this afternoon.

Oct. 19: We packed up this morning and left about 8 am for Whitley Camp and arrived about noon and met the rest of our Co. leaving for the ranges. We were changed to hut 49 after dinner, did not do much this afternoon. A fine day.

Oct. 20: We were on church parade this morning and wrote letters most of the time in the afternoon. A wet afternoon.

Oct. 21: We were on P.T. this morning, then were paraded up and had our gas masks changed and through the gas chamber again and in the afternoon started on the Lewis gun course. Had a muster roll call this evening and then out on a two hour route march with our gas masks on. It was fierce. A fair day.

Oct. 22: We were on P.T. this morning, then on the Lewis gun all day till 4 pm when we were brought in and had our medical board. Is France next? A fine day.

Oct. 23: We were on Lewis gun this morning and fill in before 1 pm and went up on dental parade, have four to fill. We came back and went on clothing parade. A fine day.

Oct. 24: We were on P.T. this morning, then Lewis gun drill and in the afternoon went out to the ranges and fired the gun. A chilly day.

Oct. 25: We were on P.T. this morning, then for a lecture on the German Maxim gun and in the afternoon were out passing tests on bombing and firing off the bombs from the rifles. A fine day.

Oct. 26: I went on sick parade this morning and was sent to the hospital, turned my rifle and gas mask into the Co. 2 en. and my harness in the Batt. 2 en. They say I have Bronchitis. I have a fine bed. What a relief am not very sick.

Oct. 27: Still in hospital. Spent the day reading a lot.

Oct 28: Am still in the hospital, reading a lot.

Oct. 29: In the hospital, am about the same, read all I can.

Oct. 30: Still in the hospital. My temperature is down but my pulse varies a great deal. Expect to be out soon. Quite a number of new ones came in today. Guess all 72 draft will be through the hospitals before they go to France.

Oct. 31: I was discharged from the hospital this morning and sent to hut 25 for 10 days and 1 day excused duty. My throat is still sore. Just got 8 letters today. A wet day.

Nov. 1: I went up on sick parade again and got sent to the dentist and had to wait around there all day and got a start made on them this evening. Have to go back next Monday afternoon. I am feeling quite a lot better. Got a letter from Merle today. A showery day and chilly.

Nov. 2: I was changed from hut 25 to hut 40 today. Have been having an easy time. Was down to Milford this afternoon and had my photo taken. I am feeling fairly well again. A showery day.

Nov. 3: I wrote a few letters today and was mess orderly for our hut. It rained a great deal today.

Nov. 4: I was on light duty today, scrubbing the hospital and to the dentists afternoon. It is raining terrible and our roof leaks, very nice, eh?

Nov. 5: I was working hut orderly this morning and on fatigue this afternoon. A fine day.

Nov. 6: I was up to the dentist's this morning and this afternoon was on light duty. Got a letter from Maitland, also box from Minnie Bernard. My, wasn't it fine.

Nov. 7: I was on light duty again today, not much doing. A fine day.

Nov. 9: I was up to the dentist's again this morning and have to go again. Was down to Milford in the afternoon. Got my pictures. A fine day.

Nov. 10: Sunday. Did not do much this morning and Bishop May was out this afternoon to see us. Had a fine time. All kinds of reports that the war is over and we hope so. A fair day.

Nov. 11: I was on light duty this morning and about 11 am a Batt. Parade was called. I lined up with the rest and we were told that the Armistice had been signed and then were taken over to H.I. dining room and had a short

thanksgiving service in the afternoon. Francis and I walked down to Godalming. They gave us a half holiday. A wet evening and a rough evening. Tintown was wrecked, supposed by 3<sup>rd</sup> Res.

Nov. 12: I was up to the dentist's this morning and went up to see Tintown after dinner . Some sight. In the afternoon did not do much. Went back to my company this morning. A fine day.

Nov.13: I was up to the dentist's this morning and got through up there and right after dinner we moved all D.G. and F. Co's over to H. 2 huts. I am in No. 1 hut in the afternoon. A fine day.

Nov. 14: I was out on P.T. this morning and did not do much the rest of the day. Part of D. Co. called on draft again. A fine day, cold.

Nov. 15: I worked at the Sargent's mess all day wiping dishes most of the time. A fine day.

Nov. 16: I was on picket for 24 hours. Stayed in my hut most of the time. The first of our fellows left for France tonight, Francis among them.

Nov. 17: I was on picket all day again. Not much doing. A fine day.

Nov. 18: I was hut orderly today, had an easy time. Am warned for guard tomorrow.

Nov. 19: I went on guard this morning, four of us and a corporal, guarding a magazine behind Tintown, my first experience. A fine day.

Nov. 20: I came off guard duty this morning and have been resting up all day. Got word from home tonight that Herb has been killed in action.

Nov. 21: I went out on hospital picket today. A fine day.

Nov. 22: I came off picket this morning and went to sleep. Wrote to May after dinner.

Were called out this evening and told about the Khaki College and asked what study we wished to take up. Agriculture for one.

Nov. 23: I was on hospital picket again today. Had an easy time. Was on fire picket and just had four hours duty.

Nov. 24: Sunday. I was cleaning up this morning and in the afternoon Charlie Sylvester and I went over to Lord Pierce estate. Some sight.

Nov. 25: I was on as hut orderly today and was out on the square in the afternoon squad and arm drill.

Nov. 26: I was hut orderly all day, an easy time.

Nov. 27: I was hut orderly again and was paid this forenoon 2 pounds 10 s.

Nov. 28: I was hut orderly, put in all day and got ready to go on pass.

Nov. 29: We left Whitley camp and marched to Milford Station and arrived in London about noon. Spent part of the afternoon in a wax works and left a 76 for Scotland.

Nov. 30: We arrived in Edinburgh about 5:30 am and were taken to Victoria Club. The city is full of soldiers on pass. We went through Holyrood Palace, saw Arthur's seat, the largest extinct volcano and went and heard the Royal proclamation read for the election of new Peers for Scotland and went to the museum in the afternoon, also to a cemetery and saw where many of the Scottish Martyrs were killed and buried. We were down on Princes St. in the evening. We got a room at the YMCA building.

Dec. 1: I got up too late to go to church and put in the day sightseeing. We were at the castle and in the museum again. I left on the 7:30 train for Peterborough.

Dec. 2: I travelled all night and arrived at Wisbech about 7 am and then started out to hunt up Maitland and found him and he got leave from his Gen., is to be off parade for the morning so we went for a walk and had a good time together. I left for Norwich at noon and arrived there at four. Then I went up and saw the Cathedral and left for Bungay at 4:40. Arrived there that eve and stayed at a private house overnight.

Dec. 3: I hired a wheel this morning and started off and went through to Harlston, had a look around the town and then came back through Redinhill and found out there where the Parker farm was. I wheeled out and had no trouble in finding it, had a look around and took a number of snaps. A Mr. Chiswick has the place and there is little modern improvements in it. I started back and ran up to Denton in the way back, not much there. I arrived back in Bungay and left in the afternoon for London and got there in the evening. I got a bed in the S.A.

Dec. 4: I hunted up bishop May's place. He was away but I had a fine talk with the women. I left for Waterloo station in the afternoon and got the 5 train for Milford and arrived in camp about 8.

Dec. 5: I am on hut orderly this morning and was out filling in trenches in the afternoon.

Dec. 6: I was hut orderly all day.

Dec. 7: I was on hut orderly.

Dec. 8: Sunday. I was hut orderly.

Dec. 9: I was to attend the Khaki College taking up a course in Agriculture but the Corp. picked me out to go as batman for the adjutant for a few days.

Dec. 10: I am in the officers' lines as Batman.

Dec. 11: Am still at my job.

Dec. 12: Am getting on to my job.

Dec. 13: Am having an easy time.

Dec. 14: Still on as Batman.

Dec. 15, 16, 18: Having an easy time at my job.

Dec. 18: Adjutant away to London.

Dec. 19: Not much doing. The fellow is not back yet that I am taking the place of. He came tonight.

Dec. 20: I am still on the go. Came back to the Co. this morning and went to Khaki College.

Dec. 21: I was to the College this morning and in the afternoon Laidlaw and I were down to Milford. Had a fine walk.

Dec. 22: Sunday, Church parade this morning and writing letters in the afternoon.

Dec. 23: I was sent down to the C.A.S.C. with 11 men to work for the day.

Dec. 24: I was to Khaki College today.

Dec. 25: Christmas. We had a very good time under the circumstances. They gave us good meals, had menu, cards. Mess room all decorated, band and music for dinner. Went for a walk in the afternoon and in the evening was sent as acting Corporal of the guard on the Klinik.

Dec. 26: I was on duty all day and got relieved at 5 pm.

Dec. 27: I was lying around all day resting up and went on duty at 5 pm at the same job, Corp. of the guard.

Dec. 28: I was on duty all day and did not get relieved this evening.

Dec. 29: Sunday. I am still on duty but got relieved at 5 pm.

Dec. 30: I did not do anything this morning and went to College this afternoon.

Dec. 31: I was to Khaki College all day.

Jan. 1, 1919: It was a holiday and did not do much. It rained all afternoon.

Jan. 2: I was to the College all day.

Jan. 3: Attended Khaki College all day.

Jan. 4: Attended College this morning and did not do much in the afternoon.

Jan. 5: On Church parade this morning.

In back of journal:

Leonard Elson

Huntmore, Goldaming, Surrey.

Fodder and Pasture books,

Field Crop, Production by Livingston

How to choose a Farm by Hunt

Farm Management by Warren

211 graves since July 6 Bramshott 1918

Nearly 340 altogether

Crew stopped for a few minutes, Stafford

Wolverhampton,

Birmingham,

Oxford.

YMCA card 817

Map on back cover showing a river? And location marked for large house,  
bush and the Farm.