



F.W. Wismer Diary, 1916-1917, Transcript

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[1916]

Left London, Ontario. Set out 14th, 1916 by two trains. Half of Battalion in each. When we got to Toronto, we met a number of [?] girls; got to Montreal Sunday 8 a.m. Scenery is beautiful to Halifax. Arrived there Tuesday [?] 10 o'clock.

Boarded the S.S. Metagama at 2 p.m. Tuesday 17th and left harbour Wednesday. The boats Cameronia and North Land all C.P.R. boats accompanied us. All had troops on them. A French cruiser went with us as an escort.

The trip across was fine till we got into St. George Channel when we ran into the greatest storm sailors have seen for years. We passed two navy freighters in distress. Two torpedo destroyers came and met us when within two days' sailing of Liverpool. They watched over us while in the danger zone all the way to the river.

We landed in Liverpool October 28th, 9 a.m. and took the train to Milford, Surrey. We marched then to Whitley Camp.

While on the boat, the grub was rotten and had a H.... of a time down in the bow. Was sick a few days, but not sea sick until the second last day.

WE were in Whitley a week when we moved to Bramshott Camp and found it not as good as Whitely. More than that, I was financially embarrassed.

Got paid Nov. 12 Four Pounds.

Half the Battalion went on [pass?] for 6 days and one Friday afternoon, while not exercising ...[?] in the hospital. Wes Haug, Tiverton, was knocked down with others by a passing motor truck. Haug was killed which put a great gloom over the Battalion.

On Monday, p.m. 13th Nov., we buried him in an English Church and cemetery near [Lifbook?]. Our band played the Funeral March in [Saul?]. It was a sad affair. Quite a number of Canadian soldiers had been buried in this cemetery.

After the funeral, the other half of the Battalion, which I was in, left for a 6 day leave.

I went to London. Got there at 9 p.m. and found a very great fog, which along with the absence of streetlights, we found it very difficult to find our way.

We stopped at the [?] House, [?] Regency and Vauxhall Bridge Road. It was opened [?] [?] soldiers alone and was a [?] [?] too.

Tues. morning, we went to Madame Tussaud's Wax Works; p.m., the zoo, largest, I guess, in the world. Wed. Parliament Buildings and Westminster Abbey. Saturday, in the House of Lords – a fine place. Went to the column in Trafalgar Square. [?] show. 4 Memorial organ. Players operated [?] and organ same time. The storm was a great hit played on the pipe organ. The howling of winds and thunder was very distinct.

Was also at Victoria Palace, [?], and Albert Hall. Grand orchestra of 100 players. Tower of London, where the King's jewels were on exhibition. Stood on place where Anne Boleyn was beheaded. The bloody tower was interesting.

London Bridge and St. Patrick's Cathedral were other places of note. As a whole, we had a scrumptious time in London.

Came back to Camp Bramshott Sunday morning November 19th, 3 p.m.

Out early again in the morning at stretching drill.

24th – Great Boxing Tournament at [Cimer...?]. Very exciting.

After that, we took great interest in this sport. Have a pair of boxing gloves in the hut and every day we take drastic measures to knock each other out. Got a sore nose many times and at one time that to have a rib broken, but you should see the other fellow. It was great to warm [?] by when cold.

Larger draughts are leaving this camp (Bramshott) for France each week. Bands play and men cheer the troops as they leave the camp for the last time.

Half of the 160th. Battalion quarantined with mumps.

There are 28 to 34 men in huts here.

Dec. 1st., Ralph Geddes visited a while on ten days' hospital leave. He was wounded in July, 1916.

7th. Dec., Buried Pte. Syd Hooey of Chesley with Military Honours in Bramshott Cemetery. We played the [?] March in Saul. The procession was fixed thus: Firing Party, Brass band, Chaplain, [tun?] waggon driven by four black horses. Casket was layed on waggon with British flag over it. After the waggon, came bearers, then the Battalion.

This camp is called The Death Trap of England. Many deaths occurred here lately, mostly from colds. Everybody has a graveyard cough.

Dec. Received six letters from friends. One was from Dad with 2 cheques of five pounds each. On 29th Oct., I sent home for \$10.00 and instead got ten pounds. An agreeable surprise.

Dec. 9. Bramshott Camp played Aldershott Camp in lacrosse in latter's camp 17 miles from here. Score was 11 to 2 in latter's favour.

Dec. 10, Methodist sermon at 9:30 a.m. in our mess tent. 160th Brass Band acted as organ. After church, I found a letter with a cheque for three pounds for me. Lots of money now. Also I got a box of sweets, cake, and smokes from Hilda Reddon. Big surprise, considering all, but I was glad to get it, being the first box I got.

Dec.11, Got a box from pearl with medicine chest in it.

Dec 12, Box from Winnie and Belle

Dec. 13, lecture on musketry. Cold and wet standing around.

Dec. 19, Got paid 1 pound 10 shillings. This is paid up till end of year. No more pays until 15th. of January. Three shillings is taken from our pay for washing.

Great fogs are many these days. Snow and frost.

Got Mother's box with fountain pen, which is greatly appreciated.

Germany suing for peace, but guess there will be no peace for a while. Peace meeting at The Hague in the middle of January.

French make great captive of 11830 men and great many guns.

Dec. 17, Bobby [Stofhe?] was here from Efsorn Hospital. He was wounded on the [?] and taken to Hospital. He tells great soldier stories of the war in France, but doesn't care much about going back. He was looking well.

Dec.23, Great riot in hut at night. 11:30, things got pretty hot.

In daytime, we decorated hut and painted walls. Our style took great effect. Most every Battalion in camp sent representatives to this hut to get pointers on cleanliness and way we had kit arranged. It made a great hit and all Battalions are following our example, now, by orders of their officers.

Buried Pte. McDonald in morning. Weather was wet and very disagreeable. Played "Soldier's Prayer" or funeral march.

Dec.24, Sunday. Played men to church. Fine day. A box from L. McLorne and F. Harbridge. Pairs of socks from each of us was part of contents. Went to bed at 7:30.

Dec. 25 Xmas Day – First time to be away from home on such a day. Wonder how many more. No breakfast. Feeling tough but expect to be better by noon.

12:30 Battalion lined up on grounds and we played them to the mess but there was a great time we looked forward to. We took our mess tins etc. and went in and got a seat. Didn't get anything to eat until 2 p.m. Then came my plate of potatoes, fish, pork and enough turkey for one mouth full. We also had pudding, nuts, raisins, and on cigarette each. We were filled and in good shape for the after performance.

There was a concert made up of our own men. Band gave a few selections.

The Recreation or drawing room had been completed by noon. It is one end of the mess hut. Fine soft upholstered furniture, which was rented at 60 pounds per month. Piano and fireplace also have a place in this beautifully decorated room.

Was in [Hazelmare?] at night with Sam Wisler, an alto player. Our names are almost alike. We didn't stay long 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. I wonder why.

Dec. 26. Up in the morning as usual and played Battalion out to field and then we dismissed. Didn't do anything in morning.

Roy Parr is here from France. He belongs to the 28th Battalion and has been in trenches for 16 months. He looks well. He is on ten days' leave.

P.M. Band inactive as usual.

Seventeen more cases of mumps reported this morning. All of A Company is quarantined (except one hut).

Broke the seal on thee bottle of [Cascane?] pills from Pearl.

9:15 p.m. Our little [Lenmens?] band is a great success.

Two funerals to Bramshott cemetery today.

Dec. 28 Carl and I went too [Hazelmare?] for supper. After dinner [?]. Then, we went to Cinema. We saw some fine films. One was on a submarine. Showed how same was lowered and raised in the water. It also fired a torpedo. Say, it was great to see the torpedo and submarine travel. The sub travelled on the top of the water and is flat on the top.

Also, saw how mail is sorted in Land office. There is no mention of the boxes there.

Of course, there is no mercy in the army anywhere. Harry, Jack, Court, Curtis, and myself asked to be reverted to ranks.

Dec. 29. Route march through Lifhook and away out into the country. Wet and muddy. Nothing doing in afternoon. Sergeant is in bad spirits. We should worry though.

Dec. 31st. Sunday. No church. Wrote letters and lay around. Went for a walk before going to bed.

[1917]

Jan. 1st Hurrah for the New Year. Arose from bed early as usual, got breakfast and cleaned up. At 8:30, we played the Battalion out, although quarantined [?]. Then we went to heights for our first-aid work. We were dismissed, so here "we are".

Went to Cinema at night. Pictures very good.

Jan. 2nd. One event to be put down in history is, after not receiving mail for about two weeks, I got FIFTEEN at noon. Oh, it was a glorious day. Some stack of mail! The S.S. Olympia was reported quarantined with fever at the docks at Liverpool and probably, that was the cause of no mail for so long.

Jan 4. Colonel of Hospital here died within 24 hours from the time he took sick. Meningitis was cause. There are many cases here.

Jan.5 On dental parade. Have a tooth which needs filling but the old mutt said "all fit". Maybe I didn't call him, but it was of no use.

Have been soaking feet in hot water, every day. In-grown toe nails.

Jan. 6. Not much to report. We were dismissed from Red Cross field at 11 a.m. In afternoon, I didn't do much as it being half-holiday. Wrote a few letters.

9 p.m. a stormy sea for the Sergeant.

Jan. 7, Sunday 9 a.m. We played part of Battalion onto the field. Did not go to church, as it was too cold in mess hut. Germany says, in this morning's papers, that the war will now go on, as allies will not come to terms. Peace now would be German [?]

Jan. 8. We have begun to make speeches on First Aid. It is quite interesting. I am to give one on the Digestive System.

Jan. 10. Route march of about nine miles. Received box of Camel cigarettes (200) from Esther Hird, also a box of candy from Pearl.

Jan. 11. Raining and snowing. Very dirty weather. Did not go on parade. Four letters, dated Dec. 24th. Greece came to Allies' terms, at last. Apparently, there will be no peace between enemy and us until we have whipped the enemy severely.

Jan. 9. Got letter from Jim Anderson, who is in [Efsom?] Hospital. At 9c p.m., the Fire-call sounded and we all had to line up in front of our huts while the fire pickets ran to the fire, and if we were needed, we would be ready. The fire was in Tintown. It was put out in about $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. and the dismiss call was sounded, so we went back to our dugouts.

Dec. 12 Route march of about 10 miles. Went over a new road. Scenery interesting. A lady came out of her house waving a German officer's helmet. Apparently brought from The Front. Band practice in afternoon. Carl, Court, and I went to Cinema. Pictures the best I have seen.

Jan. 13. Gave lecture on Digestive System on Red Cross drill field. Did very well. When I woke up, I thought I had pneumonia, but I let it go.

Jan. 14. Sunday. Woke up feeling some better. Went to Presbyterian Church in our own mess hut. Text: "Have Courage". Very good sermon. The band of the 119th Battalion played the hymns. After church, I wrote many letters and when mail came, there was none for me. Boo -hoo. Night has come and I have written eight letters and sent two newspapers home. Exciting time. Between 9:30 and 10:15, Sam and Joe pulling off some stunt.

Jan 15th. Usual progression in the morning. In the afternoon, we started musketry again. We now use the Endfield Rifle. I like the work fine.

Jan. 16. Have three musketry instructions from 17th Battalion. They are good too.

Jan. 17. Getting along fine. In the afternoon, we learned about the gas-helmet.

Jan 18. Jud. Atchison reported to doctor with mumps. We are suffering, [?] [?]. it too, for we are now quarantined for 16 days, and it stops our musketry course. WE thought we were going to escape the mumps, but it got us at last. The whole Battalion is now quarantined. We have our meals carried into our huts now from the cookhouse. It's sure hard luck.

Got a few Canadian letters last night. This itch we have is jolly ripping. We all have it. It's the worst sensation a person can have. Scratch, scratch, all the time. The rash is all over the body. Have had it for some time.

We got our prize to-day for having the cleanest and best-decorated hut at Xmas time. Guess what it was. "Each, a box of cigaretters". "Some joke".

Jan. 19. Route march with great coats. About ten miles.

Jan. 20. Had bend practice in afternoon.

Saturday Jan. 21^{s.t} Got 160th writing paper. Wrote many letters. [Met Mr. Brooke?]

Jan. 22nd. Found a picture of soldering in camp huts. Sent it home. Weather is very cold and frosty.

Jan. 23rd. Twelve mile route march. Roads very slippery. Scenery grand. Some very high and long hills, we climbed.

Jan 24th. Got box from home dated Dec. 30th. Very strict orders now pertaining to quarantine.

Jan. 25th. Very cold, indeed. No snow of any account. Got orders at 6 p.m. to go on route march at 6:50 p.m. Short time. We were al ready at 6:50 and marched out on the field with battalion. Very dark. The advance guards marched off at 7 o'clock with one lantern, and then came the battalion and a rear guard with a red lantern. We hit a god fast pace and got to Lynchmere church at 8:30 p.m., a distance of six miles, anyway. We, there, [?] a night raid on the enemy, supposed to be where our [?] is, on top of a high cliff or high level.

The scouts moved off. Then a while after, the Machine Gun Section, then bombers, then the companies, and stretcher-bearers,, and then the band and C and D companies – all left with orders to walk very quietly and not whisper. We came to the enemy's position by means of going around another road, different from going out. When we came within a few hundred rods of the great cliff, we had to stop and by down on the road side so as not to be seen by anyone and wait until the outpost on scouts climbed the hill to scoured the surroundings for news of the enemy and sent it back to us, the battalion.

We wait there about an hour, and nearly frozen, until the news came back to front and advance. Then, some of us (about 200) went on our tiptoes and going through trenches and up and down through the bushes in single-file. All the time, the signalers gave us signs by means of their signalling [lamp?]. Our party got into our quarters about 12 p.m. without casualties. Don't know how the other party did, but Major McNally, who was engineering the raid, commented us on the good way we went about it.

We are getting lots of marches now and will get more night marches now.

Jan. 26th. Very cold weather.

Jan. 27th. [Wendorfe?] and I are hut orderlys[sic] today. Windows are frosted so badly, can't see out. Hut very cold, [Ronte] march in afternoon. We scouted men who were hidden along the roadside and took them prisoners. These men belonged to over btlit and were sent out to hide and we would hunt them. It was practice for finding snipers and enemy out posts. We had some fun chasing a rabbit. Very cold that day. Didn't get back till after five o'clock.

Jan. 28

Sat. So cold that we didn't go out on field at night it was colder still and we had no coal. We sat with our overcoats on and some went to bed at 7 o'clock to keep warm.

Jan 29. Sunday

No church for us today quarantine is the reason. Played cards with [Trout] & Jim Nelson. Wrote a few letters.

Jan. 30th Went before clothing board. Got trousers & boots condemned. Very cold weather

Jan 31st.

Jim Anderson came to say good-bye. He didn't like it very well that he had to go. While talking to him at the door Reggie Campbell came round the corner of the hut to see me. I knew him at once & was so excited I could hardly speak. After Jim went he came in and stayed. Went out into the country on a march also to guard a supposed Headquarters about five miles from our camp. It was four P.M. when we went out & took two sandwiches with us. When we got to our destination, we were broken up and some went out as scouts, others guarded the post we were holding. We got back to camp at 9:45 P.M. & Reggie was still waiting for me. We just got in when the fire call sounded. The cinema had caught fire. We had to line up in front of our huts so as to be ready for any assistance. The fire was soon put out so we were dismissed. Reggie slept in by bed & I made out with [Trout] for the night.

Feb 1st.

I got ten letters today. Mails must have been delayed for I got two and three from the same person. Reggie left us in the afternoon.

Feb. 3rd.

Sun is shining & is a very nice day.

We got pit pf quarantine to-day and everybody happy. We scrubbed floors and disinfected everything by Sulphur fumes. Out at night. Good time.

Feb. 4th

In afternoon Carl and I walked to Greyshott and Hindhead, then out to the stone that signifies where the unknown sailor lies who was murdered in the '70s. He was murdered on the road and on the right of the road is a hill or bank about twenty feet high. Here, there is a tall stone which shows where the murderers were hanged. There is also a frost which gives the directions and that spot is 895ft about the sea-level which makes our camp more than 800ft above sea-level. It is a beautiful day. We came home for supper and then went to Haselmere to the show. Pictures were very good we had to wait an hour outside to get a ticket.

Sunday Feb. 4th

Played the batt out on the field & then went to the mess hut where church was held. In afternoon I stayed in and wrote letters. At night it snowed and blowed furiously. Got first news of America breaking with the Kaiser.

Feb. 5th

Got up from bed & found the ground covered with snow also a big drift at the door. It's mighty cold these mornings but we are good for it. Food sleighing but waggons[sic] still prevail. At 4;30 P.M. batt went to Lynchmere Commons about three or four miles away. Great lines of trenches & dugouts are here & we went into them as in warfare &

suppose to relieve troops who were in for six days. There is a dugout there that is 36ft deep. We stayed in there until 6:30 and came home and got supper.

Feb. 6th

In afternoon, we went on a route march about 9 miles; through Fernhurst Hammer & Midhurst. Got a letter at night from Jim Anderson. He is now at Hastings awaiting his transfer into this battalion.

Feb. 7.

Hang the dog-gone luck, Jim Kincaid took the mumps & we are now in quarantine again for sixteen days. This is awful, to be shut in again. Big mail should be in to-day but I guess the boats are running pretty cautiously now.

Feb. 8th

No mail. The Blockade is surely on. In two days, the Germans sank twenty-seven boats. Eighteen ~~bug~~ being British.

Feb. 9.

Went to the trenches in afternoon. Had practice on going over the parapet. Got back about 6 P.M.

Feb. 10

The most beautiful day, this year. The sun shone and the air was warm, but we were quarantined in. We paraded to the bath-house and bathed in a pan 30 in wide and [10] in deep. Wrote letters after.

Feb. 11.

Papers state, up to date the Germans have sunk eighty two ships since fist of February. Bands playing all over the camp. The air is full of music. Weather is getting more like spring.

Feb. 12. Got Annies box of tabacco etc. It was lovely. Mails are coming any old time now. We gave up getting any [atell] for the German pirates are doing some fierce [torped] [owing] on the seas. Movements of troops have ceased over the water at present. Made tobacco pouch of drum skin.

Feb. 13.

Lovely spring weather. Band practice in the hut. Got news[sic] trousers and boots. The boots they are issuing are English made and are twice as heavy as the first ones. They are a different style and are used in France. Orders came out they were to be worn at best three times a week, to break them in.

Feb. 16.

At 9 a.m. we played the batt out on the field and then all went out to Lynchmere commons about three miles out where great lines of trenches cover the whole field. Here we played real war. Outside at the beginning of the trenches, we had a headquarters. Office, also a dressing-station. Half of the batt. Went into the trenches and some of us were stretcher bearers others were staff orderlies. M. Hahn, Joe Amman and I were Runners. That is, we delivered messages from Headquarters to the different trenches. After the first bunch had been in for a couple hours, the next bunch went into relieve the first. We stayed till after twelve, with the intentions of coming back again in the afternoon. When we got back to camp we got orders to be on parade again at 1:15 P.M. We got our dinners and hurried out. Out on the field Major Moffat told us that we go to Witley camp on Sunday Feb 17th at 11 a.m. to join the 5th Division. He also told us that we were the first battalion to go to France as a unit or all to-gether since the 16th battalion. We are in luck to go to-gether, but our record of good conduct helped a great deal. He spoke a good line and then said that the quarantine huts had to stay for at least two weeks more. Our hut is among the four that have to stay behind. He then told the battalion to go and get ready. There is always a lot of work in connection with moving.

Feb. 18th. Saturday

Beautiful warm day nothing much stirring until night when there was a rough house.

Feb. 19. Sun. morn.

Eleven o'clock came and we were all out on the field. It was nice to see all the men together again. We played the battalions about half way to Witley, just at the Punch Bowl. It was a beautiful day, so we rested there and came back to the camp after playing "Keep the Home Fires burning." We got home at noon and all we got for dinner was a couple loaves of bread & some margarine. Got nothing for supper except what we bought by skipping out. Don't know how we are going to fair to-morrow, as we are depending on another battalion for rations and they got orders to leave to-morrow.

Feb. 20th.

Wet weather and quite a heavy fog. At one o'clock P.M. the Sergeant Major of the 13th Reserve battalion, from where we get our rations ordered us to pack up our stuff, scrub the floor and move to a quarantine area on their own lines. At that time, we didn't know how he had any authority over us, so did heed his commands. So after he went away, we went to bandpractice. At ten minutes after three the S. M. and captain of the 13th came in and asked why we weren't out and said they'd give us till four o'clock to get out or we'd all be arrested. You could knock the eyes off the captain with a stick for he seemed to be pretty mad, but maybe we didn't hustle around and at four o'clock we had everything out at the side of the hut, waiting for orders, which would show us where to go. It was getting dark and no home, but we're used to that, but at about 5:15 the capt. Came back and said we might go back to our hut for the night. Well, we were disgusted for the floor was all wet and mumps would sure break out again if we stayed there, but

stay was the order and we had to put all our stuff back again. Some job too. Well at 7:30 P.M. they came back and told us we'd have to move at once for there was a battalion coming into these lines that night. It was pitch dark and oh so muddy, but we packed up our troubles in in[sic] our old kit bags and smile smile smile, as the song goes, but there was a different feeling tingling in our blood. Well we got settled about 9:30 or ten and now we are waiting and wondering what the next move is. I move, we get some more grub. We get a cup of tea, ½ loaf of bread, small loaf at that, some margarine every twenty four hours. We got a little irish stew one day. This ration is issued to each man. The grub will no doubt be better when we get out of quarantine. Of course I buy stuff when I can get it. A good box from Canada would be appreciated very much now.

Feb 26th

This is a lovely day for February. We are getting some physical exercise and route marches now. We feel a little better now. We are pulling off a good one now on the doctors. Jim Nelson, in our hut took the mumps on 25th of Feb. but he isn't reporting it and is going to stay in and be hut orderly. I got them at least they started but to-day it is no worse. Jim's face is pretty well swelled up now. If it were reported we would be in for twenty eight days more. We are now nicely settled in this new home.

At ten P.M. the captain (Dirty Dick) told us we had to move to another hut to-night, in full marching order We were mostly all in bed, and some of us asleep but we had to pack up and go to another hut. Gee but we were ripping mad. This all is a sample of the army life. We got out with our stuff and tramped through the mud six inches deep. It was late when we got settled and no lights.

Feb. 27. Beautiful warm day. As usual we had to be on parade at 7:30 a.m. but we were the dirtiest bunch you ever saw. We were so mad that we didn't care what happened to us for being dirty. We didn't shave nor clean our buttons nor shoes. Mud about an inch thick on our shoes, We went to our drill grounds and took physical training for one hour, then squad drill for an hour and then went for a route march with battalion until 12:30. This goes on each day. In afternoon we had band practice. My mumps are all gone away. Probably it wasn't the mumps I had. No mail for two weeks.

Today's papers state that the New War Loans brought 1000,312,500 [pounds] new money, and 8000,00 people subscribed to it.

The steamer, Lucania was torpedoed with American mail and citizens on board. She belonged to Cunard line and had a tonnage of 18000 tons, and 600 ft long.

March 1st.

Nothing much to report except our daily routine. Ten mile route marches every day. Of course we do this in a few hours then go on with the other work. If we are not at band-practice we are at drill.

March 3rd.

10 a.m. We are getting ready to go out on a march at 11 o'clock. There are over 400 men in this quarantine area. They are made up of different battalions, and when we go on marches we play for the bunch. Hope to get to Witley to join our battalion once more.

In Witley, the quarantine men have yellow ribbon bands on their hats, and barbed wire between the huts, and guards beside. It seems like a German Internment camp.

March 7th

We got out of quarantine to-day but we have to stay for five days before we can go to our battalion.

March 8

7 men are on guard duty now and the rest of us are mess orderlys. We carry food to the quarantine huts at meal time.

We got a big bunch of mail. Mostly boxes. I got 5 boxes myself. We had a regular Xmas feed. We certainly relished it too.

March 11.

Two officers of this batt. (25th Reserve) were in and they are getting us to Witley to-morrow.

March 15th

At 10 a.m. we were warned to go to Witley at 2 P.M. so we started packing up at once. We were ready at 2 P.M. and started. We got to Witley at 5 P.M. and the battalion cheered us as we marched onto the grounds, We were then dismissed & got our coppers and went to our boys again. It was just like getting home to be back to our own battalion.

March 10.

Got our new Webb equipment, and rifles etc. Then got our clothing [condemned] and in afternoon started musketry. I like it fine.

March 17

In afternoon (Saturday) was sport day (St. Patrick). We had all kinds of sports on the field and at 5 P.M. some of us went to Guilford. We had a good time but got back late and was on the mat for it. I got off alright. So far I have a clean sheet.

March 18 Sunday

Church in the mess hut in the morning and in afternoon I wrote some letters & then went to [Godalming]. "What about sunshine" I got home early that night ~~but~~

March 19

We went to [Minatu] ranges and made some good shots.

March 20

Mail came in. It was the first mail we've had for weeks.

March. 21st

Sergt. Bell is cleaning his shoes for the first time since he joined the army.

March 24th Witley

Packed up to move somewhere can't say, Division is moving out,

Second last page

Gladys Jones, 20 [Glyn?] St., Vaux hall, London.

Last page

Mrs. [?] [Usbon?]

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