



Dear John

Oct 8-16

Just a P.C on going
to Muenster with Auntie
hoping it will find you quite
well. I received your Helen
letter this morning with the
news hope, delightful. Will
write soon with friend love
Yrs Ever Gladys M. Jones

CARD

Miss John Brewster
no 2774-2 Comburg.
1/5th St. Royal Apts
Dunport.
29th Victoria
British Mediterranean
Backstation Lane
London



Pte G Douglas no 3733

15th London Regt

B.R.F.

France

no 3933
Regt

1915

Nov 29th

7-30 am. Left Barnes Stn.

10-5 am. arrived Lodon y

marched to rest camp. Remains

Under canvas. Rotten tents,

3 pm. went down to the

town. Had tea & made

several purchases. Went

to Gaiety Cinema. Rotten

show. Come back & went

to bed. Smelly & wet

blankets.

Nov 30th

Got up at 7-15 am. Found

boots soaked. Still raining.

Breakfast - bread & jam

nothing to drink

marched for 2000 yds

toes - rifles & bayonets

Dinner - Stew (Jelly) ^{pot}

^{no onions or carrots}
Had wash about 2:30 p

Went to Ymca - played
draughts

5 hrs. Rations fatigue

5:45 - Went down town

Had tea & went to

Palace - hot bath to

9:45 hrs - bed in Overcoat,

Blanket - everything wet.

Fairly good night.

~~Nov 31~~ Dec 1st

Got up 7:30 am Breakfast

as yesterday. Still raining

Heavy thunderstorm.

Camp as bad as Richmond

Played cards until

1 hr. Dismissed & went

to town. Had dinner

visited Ymca. Played
billiards & bagatelle. Had
tea at Ymca. Went out
for a stroll. Returned to
Ymca & had another
game of billiards. Returned
to camp & went to bed
at 9 pm. Blankets wetter
than ever but fairly good
night.

Dec 2nd

Got up 7 am. Weather
fine. Breakfast (bread
& jam) 8 am. Went for
short route march out
outside the camp & met
Welsh brigade on way
to front. Mistook us for
Welsh owing to hat bling.

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* gave us good reception.
Afternoon occupied in
rifle manual including
fixing & unfixing bayonets.
The evening visited Gurca
headquarters & played
bagatelle & billiards. Rained
all the evening so went
back early & went to bed.
Before going ~~to~~ out in
evening ^{had} moved into hut
so was much more comfy
at night.

Dec 3rd

Woke up to find it
raining. Had grub in
dining hall (1 piece of dry
bread, 1 piece fatty bacon &
mug of tea without milk).

messed about Ymca
all morning until dinner
time when we had orders
to embark for Havre at
4-15. Great excitement +
lot of things to do to be
ready in time but
managed it alright. At
about 3-30 we marched
down to the docks at a
funeral pace - some of the
fellows looking as if they
were marching to the
guillotine. No 2 Platoon
very cheerful. Good send
off by the people of Soton.
Reached docks at about
4-30 + embarked about
5 pm. Waited about the

boat (The Connaught)
until 7 pm & then moved.
Weather glorious but too
dark to see anything.

Water very smooth until
we got to the open sea
& then very rough.

Boat pitched & tossed as
if it would fall over
& ~~several~~ several things
washed overboard. Several
chaps sick but fortunately
I was not. ~~Stayed~~ ^{stood} in
same place nearly all
the time holding a rope.

Dec 4th

Arrived at Havre at
2 am but did not
disembark until 7 am.

Drew ammunition (120 rounds)
& marched 607 miles
to the camp. Full pack,
ammunition, & a day's
rations & after no sleep
was jolly tired. How I
managed the march I do
not know but I did it
somehow. Not impressed
by Havre. Dirty place &
dirty people. Camp
like a town with houses
of canvas & timber.

47th Division near Harfleur
Station. Inspected by
CO & MO in the morning.
Dinner of bully beef &
biscuits & cheese & coffee
in 'fine large dining

hall. System perfect.
Dressed about in afternoon
& drew ground sheets &c.
In evening visited Ymca.
Went to bed 7-30 pm &
slept like top.

Dec 5th (Sunday)

Reveille at 6 am.

Breakfast (bread, jam, bacon,
& cheese & tea) jolly nice
at 6-20 am. Parade

at 7-45 am. Camp orders
read by Adjutant. Sound
very terrible. Musketry
practice & tests followed
by bayonet fighting each
man wearing helmet
& bodyguards.

Dinner at 1-30 pm

Tea (Bread, butter,
dripping, jam, & cheese &
tea) at 4-30 pm.

Evening spent in ~~the~~
dining room reading.
Nothing like a Sunday,
although "News of the World"
obtained for 25 centimes.

Bed about 8-30

Dec 6th

Reveille at 6 am.

Breakfast 6-20.

Parade at 8 am marched
to training ground on
plateau & then went for
route march round the
outside of the camp.

Came back through
Starflent, very dirty place.

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* Correspondingly dirty
people. Roads simply awful.
About 4000 or 5000 men
on the march & looked very
fine. Civil Service near
the head & as smart as
any lot there. First
regiment to start the singing.
Back about 1 pm. Dinner
soon after. Cleaned rifles
very carefully for inspection
in afternoon. Waited
about 20 mins on parade
in the rain & then dismissed
& told to stand by. No
further parade & spent
afternoon in canteen playing
whist.

Dec 7th

Trench digging
until dinner time,
then dismissed owing to
rain. Spent rest of
time in usual way.

Dec 8th

Musketry. 2nd test
in morning. Lecture
on bombs followed by
practical demonstration.
no rain all day.

Dec 9th

Very wet. Route
march to Haver in
rain. Got soaked through.
CSR Draft complimented on
its fine marching.
much struck with

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the beauty of Havre
Feeling fed up owing
to absence of letters!

Dec 10th

Raining as usual.

Digging all day.

More fed up than ever.

Dec 11th

Raining as usual.

More digging or rather
pretended digging.

Half day only.

Terrific explosion at
Harfleur. Wondered
what on earth was up.

Reported 2000 casualties

Even more fed up.

Still no letters from V.

Dec 12th (Sunday)

Reveille + breakfast as usual

8-45 marched to training camp + did musketry all ~~day~~ morning.

In the afternoon were inspected in our work by Sir John French who seemed quite satisfied.

Orders at night stated that 40 men to proceed on Monday to join 1st Batta. Great excitement + curiosity as to who would be the lucky ones.

Dec 13th

Paraded at 7 am + was included in draft

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for frang line. Great
reporings. Day spent in
firing 7 rounds on range
& then messing about
drawing various articles
of equipment. Paraded
for inspections by C.O. &
M.O. & for address by
Chaplain. Moved off at
about 6-30 for Hawke
Station & entrained about
8-30. Got in 3rd class
carrriage, very narrow,
no room for legs. Moved
off at 12 midnight & arrived
in Rome about 6 am after
having had no sleep.

Dec 14th

Spent whole day in

Rouen Station playing
solo. Unable to buy
things owing to lack of
funds. Served out with 2
days rations of bully beef,
biscuits, jam &c.
left Rouen at 5 pm.

but fortunately in fairly
wide carriage. Fairly
comfortable night & had
little sleep. Arrived at
Bethune at 10-30 am

Dec 15th & marched to
unknown destination.

At house de bureaux met
transport who told us that
they were looking out for
billets for the latter.

Spent 3 hours by the

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roadside & then proceeded
to Labouret where we
met the Batten. Village
about 2 miles behind front
lines. Continuous roaring
of guns yet very little sign
of war. Inhabitants
going on with usual daily
work. Attached to us 16
Platoon, D Company, together
with hoodman, Cpl, Webster
Burgess & others. Billeted in
a barn. No door. Holes in
roof & walls. Plenty of rats.
Braziers added considerably
to warmth of barn. Night
very cold & sun shined.
Fairly good night.

Dec 16th

Reveille 7 am
Breakfast - bread, butter
jam & Bacon at 8 am

Parade at 10 am
Inspection & lecture by
Colonel Wassendes.

Inspection by Medical
Officers. Lecture by
Company Commander on
use of Gas Helmets. Dinner
for day at about 12 30.

Weather very cold but dry.

Dinner of Beef, Carrots &
potatoes at 1-30. Rations
fatigue in afternoon.

Tea at 5 pm. Discovered
Prophet & several others

3rd Battalion men. Borrowed

dressing station (distance
about 1 mile). Wound
again dressed & I was
conveyed to hoens le huen
Fld Amb. From there to
23rd C.C.S. at Lozninghem.
Very well treated & after 30th
days put on convalescent
duty in reception room.
Taking particulars of incoming
patients. Very comfortable.

Dec Jan 29th 1916

Readmitted into the
hospital with influenza
Feb 3rd to 4th

Sent to base. 22 hours
journey. Admitted by
3 Stationary Hosp. Rouen

Feb 16th

Discharged from Hospital
& sent to Convalescent
Camp. Ordered to get new
glasses. Glasses unsatisfac-
tory & required changing.

March 27th - 28th

Transferred to Base detail
camp on 27th & next morning
to base at Havre. Colonel
said that my glasses did
not look satisfactory ~~and~~
so wanted ocular exam.

Apr. 5th

Sent into Isolation Camp
just when I was going up the
line. Rotten place, food
absolutely awful. Nevertheless
had pretty decent time.

Thanks to being able to buy
own grub. Dodged fatigue
for first few days. Slept
out every night.

April 20th

Discharged from Isolation
Camp.

April 22nd

Did a guard. ~~at~~ As
usual it rained half
the time.

April 26th

Left Havre for Rouen
8 in a 2nd class carriage

April 27th

Day spent in Rouen
Station messeng about
left at about 5 pm.
Very comfortable journey.

April 28th

Arrived at Bouay
at about 12-30 &
marched to Lerne
(Dynamical Training
School). And with

April 29th

Company drill in morning
under first little captain.

Football match in afternoon
6th bdn v The Rest, Result
win for 6th by 5-2. I played
for the rest.

April 30th (Sunday)

Trench digging all
day

May 1

Paraded sick with sore
heels and was given

light duty.

May 2nd

Same as May 1st

May 3rd

Moved up to join the
battalion at Fresnicourt.
Owing to bad feet I went
up on the transport.
Reached battalion to find
that Copp had been wounded
2 days previously. Hornum
in the bombers.

May 4th to 9th

Spent at Fresnicourt.
Usual programme ½ hour
phys. drill & ½ hr bayonet
fighting in morning Rest
of day to ourselves.
Sent very good. Did

working party every
other night going off
on lorries at about 7-30
and returning at about
2-30 am. Digging

communication trenches at
Ablain

May 8th

Marched from Fresneourt
to huts in Bouvigny Wood

Life much about the same
but great difficulty in
getting water. Washed
every morning in mess
tin. Working parties continue

May 9th to 13th

Spent time as at
Fresneourt. On the 13th
was told that 1 man

from 14 Section was
required to go on RL's working
party for 3 weeks. We
tossed & as usual I lost.

Thought myself unlucky.
marched to Vallers au Bois
(about 5 miles) in pouring
rain & were quartered in a
hut just outside the village
15 men from each company.
A & B Coys sent up to dig out
in Cabaret Range to do day
working parties

May 14th

Spent day in cleaning up
& paraded at 7-15 pm for
working party. marched
through Carency (razed to
ground) & into trenches.

through Cabaret Road.
Worked on dug outs all
the time. Met a battery of
Lancashire Fusiliers just
going up with a view to
capturing 5 craters on
following night.

May 15th

Trucks went up & craters
captured. Big shape & had
to wait some time before
starting work

May 16th

Day working party
May 17th to 20th

Working parties as usual
Nothing to record
May 21 to 23

Intense bombardment

of our positions by Germans.
Watching bombardment from
village. Attack followed &
our front & support lines
captured. 6th 7th & 8th badly
cut up. 15th called up &
B Coy straightway attacked
with 2 Platoons of D Coy.
Succeeded but with heavy
losses. Battalion held down
all day of 22nd in spite
of terrific bombardment.
Brigade practically
annihilated.

May 25th

Transferred to 176th Tunnell
Coy. R.E.s. at Hesin.
Billeted in Brewery. Very
rough crowd. 2 days

line & 2 days back.
Worked in 8 hour shift.
Very strenuous time

June

Rejoined Battery. Went
to Camp & found that Battery
had gone on line on previous
day. Went up with ration
at night. D. Coy in front
line. Fairly quiet line
and after 1 day & night
went into support line.
Bombardment by trench
mortars so stayed in
dug-outs.

July

Went back to Alex
Harlette Woods in huts.
Stayed 8 days. Volunteer

5 francs to be divided
between 4 of us.

Accompanied by Capt,
visited shops & made
various purchases.

Knowledge of French very
useful but found it
difficult to understand
what was said to us.

Roll Call 8-15 pm

8-30 pm - Company Alarm

Guard Went to kitchen

& slept in kitchen. Capt,

Burgess & I played solo

until 10-45 pm & at 11

pm. I took my first turn

at sitting up. Sundry troops

attracted by light in

kitchen knocked & asked

where certain places
were. Not certain but
directed them as far
as possible.

Dec 17th

A little bayonet drill in
morning for about
2 hrs & then dismissed.

Rest of day spent in
writing letters & reading.

Dec 18th

About the same as

Dec 17th

Dec 19th (Sunday)

Reveille - 3-45 am.

Breakfast - 4-30. I was
mess orderly & had order
to parade at 5-15 am.

Marched off at about 6 am.

er route for trenches. Felt
strangely cool only thing
troubling me being packs,
which was very heavy.
Passed through Sailly Laboume
hojelles, & Vermelles. At
last place entered trenches.
Shell burst near. Peculiar
sensation but bucked up
by coolness of 1st Batta men.
Reached position without
any casualties. D Coy
posted to Reserve trenches.
Plenty of shelling & sniping
but no casualties. Not
much chance of sleep owing
to fatigues. Bombing
attack on our front line
by Germans probably.

unsuccessful. Advanced
sap captured

Dec 20th

Day quiet but men
frantically excited. Expecting
order to retake lost ground.

Expectations not in vain.

13 & 14 Platoons to assist bombers.

Assisted by some others

15 & 16. Luckily I was

not included, but had

job of carrying up bombs

under very heavy fire.

Luckily escaped but trench

was blown in just after I

left. Worked until 5-30.

am Battalion casualties

very heavy.

Dec 21

Stand to at 6:30 after
1 hour's rest. 9 am went
up to front line. Raining
hard & trenches 1 ft deep
with water. Trenches shelled
but very few casualties.
One hour's sentry & 2 hours
fatigue until midnight.
Rifle choked up with
mud.

Dec 22

Still raining. Guns send
shrapnel all along the
line. Pieces dropped at my
feet but did not hit me.
3 Casualties in Platoon.
1 killed 1 wounded 1 shot.
Enemy's fire diverted by

one of our aeroplanes.
6 pm went on working party
digging an advanced trench.
In spite of flares we were
not spotted & had no
casualties. Sentry duty
from 10 pm to 11-45 pm.
& then on again at 3 am.

Dec 23rd

Relieved at 10 am by
Pat Office Rifles & struggled
back to huts at Moyelle.
Felt absolutely done up &
was covered with mud from
head to foot. Everything
in my pockets soaked.
Received 3 parcels & about
6 letters. Rested all day.

Dec 24th

Disturbed at 3-30 am
& had orders to go up to
trenches again as mine
was to be exploded at
Redoubt at 7 am & attack
was expected. How I
managed to reach trench
I don't know. Bell was
broken & had to hold equipment
on. Loaded out with extra
100 rounds of ammunition.
Got into trenches & hung
about communication trench
(Chapel Alley) until we
heard mine explosion.
Strafing began immediately
& shells began to drop
nearer & nearer to us

At last one burst just
a little behind me, blew
in the trench & buried
3 men. Next one burst
just about 5 yards to my
right. Fell a terrific
whack just beneath the
ears & ~~fore~~ was smothered
with earth. Put hand up
to head & withdrew it
covered with blood. Went
to S.B. & had it bandaged.
Danced to go back to
Somelles dressing station
by S.B. & an officer.
Afterwards ordered to
go by major. Fell very
weak & took me about
1 1/2 hours to reach the

for reading party &
transferred to special
coy.

June

Went to Bonigny Bay
for 4 days. Billed
in on houses of chitons.
Practised crawling at
night

July 30th

Went up the line.
Special Coy in dug-out
in center road.

July 31st

Went out to copy out
road but found Germans
had evacuated front line
& were shelling it. Our
barrage of fire. Crawled

back safely & rushed
back to dug-outs under
heavy fire.

July 4th

marched to hill in
Boulogne Wood.

July 5th

Oct 7th

Wounded at
Lancourt l'abbée

Oct 23rd

Sent to England
(Cosham)

Dec 4th

Transferred to
Warminster

Feb 23rd

to Lewisham

Mar 5

to West End Shop.

June 5th

to 3rd L. Y. H

July 28th

Discharged

from

Army

Hip! hip! hooray!

Hip! hip! hooray!



Bombardier G. Bacon
No. 3 Section 35 DAB R.F.A.
~~(at 3rd 1000 ft)~~

~~School of Signals~~
~~Wing Ref Co~~
~~Wing~~
B.R.A.

Driver A.B. Spe 4148
"A" Battery, 107th Brigade
R.F.A.

B. L. F.

40279 Pte L. Lidstone
"C" Section RAMC
82nd Field Ambulance

27th Div

Lidstone B. L. F.

acon
R. FA

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RAM
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[Faint, illegible handwritten text on lined paper]

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Go by way or go mine
A short yet not afar
Only a thin veil lay
The pathways where we
And I keeps watch bet. I am
This is my prayer
He looneth thy way behind
And keeps us near

I know not wh. thy road
Or which way mine way
If mine will lead through
And thine beside the sea
Yet God

So have fear
He holds thy hand he
And keeps us near

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road yes
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the sea

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I sigh sometimes to see
But since that cannot be
I'll leave thee to the care of him
Who cares for thee & me
I'll keep you both beneath
This comfort dear
One wing is thine & one
O'er me
So are we nest

no 2455 - ~~1st~~ R J Trinder

no 1 Platoon A Coy

1/8th A & S H.

57th Highland Div

B.R.F.

29/3/16

31/5/16

17/4

41428 Driver A B Cope

"A" Battery

709th Brigade

R.F.A.

B.E.F.

11/3/16

D. B.

17/4

17/4

no 2759 Pte L. Lidstone

"b" Section

82nd Field Amb.

R.A.M.C.

29th Div

Salonica Ex. Force

21/3/16

17/3/16

Trends 1955 The S. Williams
A Coy 4 Plat
H. 1/6¹¹ Seaforth
B.S.F.

31/3/16

17/4/16

Cope Bombs G. J. Bacon
D. Battery ~~159~~
159 Brig 35. D a. c
R.F.A.
B.S.F.

11/2/16

17/4/16

Stone J. C. Owen
101 Mysore Road
Clapham Common
S.W.

17/3/16

no 3741 Pte C. Propper
A Coy
15th London Regt.
B & F.

~~no 3749 Pte W. Lawrence~~
~~10th Platoon~~
Wounded ~~C Coy~~
~~15th London Regt~~

~~no 3641 Pte H. Norman~~
~~10th Platoon~~
~~D Coy~~
~~15th London Regt~~

~~no 3727 Pte J. A. [unclear]~~
~~10th Platoon~~
Wounded ~~D Coy~~
~~15th London Regt~~

9/4/16

3-30 - Cooks.

4 am. - Officer's batmen

4-30 - Copt. Benschley

" Galloway

Pte Harvey

5 am - Reveille

Wake men in both
orchards, two billets (4
and 16) & one (1345)

Sm's orderly in Sgt's mess

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Choc.
fruit
Cjs

Site R.J.T. no 2455

no 1 Plat. A Coy

1/8th A.S.H

51 HP. BASE

BRT.