

Diary of George Middleton Gibson
2nd Lieutenant – Northumberland Fusiliers
Prisoner of War
September 5th to December 8th 1918
Germany

Transcribed by Robert Gibson Shaw – October 2002

Diary of George Middleton Gibson
2nd Lieutenant – Northumberland
Fusiliers
Prisoner of War
September 5th to December 8th,
1918
Germany

Transcribed by Robert Gibson Shaw October 2002

Diary

Sept 5 Captured with 8 men while on patrol west of Cambrai (France) south of La Basse Canal about noon.

We were marched back about 20 kilo and on the way were interviewed by several officers who gained no information.

I was greatly astonished at the wretched state of the German transport.

About 9 o'clock we reached Phenalfin where I was separated from my men.

I was locked up in a cell after a very meagre meal of bread and jam the 1st I had had since 5 AM, the cell contained plain wooden bed without bedding.

I was too cold to sleep and was severely handled by fleas.

There was a Canadian Flying Officer Holland from Vancouver in the next cell.

Sept 6 I was allowed out in the yard next morning and was able to have a wash at the pump, a French woman gave me a towel to use. I walked round the yard for some time surrounded by German privates. Then I went back to my cell and Holland took my place in the yard.

Later on I was once more taken before a German officer and questioned.

So far I have been very well treated by the German officers, especially the Lieut I first saw just a few 100 yds behind the line; he gave me 6 cigarettes & a drink of mineral water and also returned to me my jack knife which had been taken by a private.

About noon Holland, I and young naval flying officer & my men were taken by train to Lille. We were marched right through that fine old town to the citadel. On the way my men sang the good old songs much to the delight of the French inhabitants. In the citadel we officers were once more put in solitary confinement.

Food Bum.

Have run out of smokes.

Sept 7 At midday I was taken to another room and at 2 my solitary confinement was ended & I was taken to a room where there were 4 other officers.

Scarlet	Rose	MacEwen	Bond
RA	FC	HLI	KRR

Menu at Lille

Breakfast Tea made of unknown leaves with dreadful taste. No milk or sugar.

Dinner Limited bread & soup could be eaten when very hungry.

Supper Coffee made of acorns. Bread & jam of sorts in small quantities.

Diary

Sept 5 Captured with 8 men while on patrol west of Cambrai (France) south of La Basse Canal about noon.

We were marched back about 20 kilo and on the way were interviewed by several officers who gained no information.

I was greatly astonished at the wretched state of the German transport.

About 9 o'clock we reached Phenalfin where I was separated from my men.

I was locked up in a cell after a very meagre meal of bread and jam the 1st I had had since 5 AM, the cell contained plain wooden bed without bedding.

I was too cold to sleep and was severely handled by fleas.

There was a Canadian Flying Officer Holland from Vancouver in the next cell.

Sept 6 I was allowed out in the yard next morning and was able to have a wash at the pump, a French woman gave me a towel to use. I walked round the yard for some time surrounded by German privates. Then I went back to my cell and Holland took my place in the yard. Later on I was once more taken before a German officer and questioned. So far I have been very well treated by the German officers, especially the Lieut I first saw just a few 100 yds behind the line; he gave me 6 cigarettes & a drink of mineral water and also returned to me my jack knife which had been taken by a private.

About noon Holland, I and young naval flying officer & my men were taken by train to Lille. We were marched right through that fine old town to the citadel. On the way my men sang the good old songs much to the delight of the French inhabitants. In the citadel we officers were once more put in solitary confinement.

Food Bum.

Have run out of smokes.

Sept 7 At midday I was taken to another room and at 2 my solitary confinement was ended & I was taken to a room where there were 4 other officers.

Scarlet	Rose	MacEwen	Bond
RA	FC	HLI	KRR

Menu at Lille

Breakfast Tea made of unknown leaves with dreadful taste. No milk or sugar.

Dinner Limited bread & soup could be eaten when very hungry.

Supper Coffee made of acorns. Bread & jam of sorts in small quantities.

8th Left Lille en route for Karlsruhe, we five officers and Charles Le Grand, sergeant Pilot Belgian army.

A motley crowd.

A British Tommy was detailed to carry a sack with our rations, which for a journey of unknown length was 9 loaves of bread as heavy as lead & a tin of beautiful pigs blood which was really intended for food, but in reality was a source of amusement, as we could neither cut it or give it away to soldiers or civilians.

Our guard consisted of a Sergt & 2 privates.

The citizens were again most sympathetic on our march to the station and we got several present handed to us on the way.

Some tobacco by a man, a piece of bread by a child & a 1 mark note by a woman. Scarlet & Le Grand both spoke French, and they spoke to several people whose great question was when would the allies take Lille and we said within a month and this proved to be true.

Cost of articles at Lille

A 1 lb loaf cost	10 francs
1 egg	2 francs
Butter	50 francs per Kilo
Boots soled & heeled	41 francs

Entrained in a cattle truck at 2 PM and arrived at Tournai at 4 PM and were kept in the guard room in the station till 9 next morning, thanks to the kindness of a German Corporal we were able to buy some honey & sardines.

9th Sept Proceeded on our journey as far as ATH where the engine went away and left us stranded on the rails from 9 AM till 5 PM when we proceeded to Brussels by civil train.

During our wait on the rails whe civilians were very good, on running to his home & bringing us a huge dish of potatoes French beans & some stewed apple.

At Ath we saw an example of how the German soldiers treated the Belgian women.

Arrived at Brussels at 5 PM after a splendid view of the city particularly the Palais de Justice.

The American Red Cross gave us a 2 lb loaf of bread each cut into slices half with margarine & half with honey and 2 meat risoles which was a God send

11 PM left Brussels & travelled all night through NAMUR & LUXEMBURG arriving at SARABUCKEN at 11 PM.

Spent the night in the waiting room.

8th Left Lille en route for Karlsruhe, we five officers and Charles Le Grand, sergeant Pilot Belgian army.

A motley crowd.

A British Tommy was detailed to carry a sack with our rations, which for a journey of unknown length was 9 loaves of bread as heavy as lead & a tin of beautiful pigs blood which was really intended for food, but in reality was a source of amusement, as we could neither cut it or give it away to soldiers or civilians.

Our guard consisted of a Sergt & 2 privates.

The citizens were again most sympathetic on our march to the station and we got several present handed to us on the way.

Some tobacco by a man, a piece of bread by a child & a 1 mark note by a woman. Scarlet & Le Grand both spoke French, and they spoke to several people whose great question was when would the allies take Lille and we said within a month and this proved to be true.

Cost of articles at Lille

A 1 lb loaf cost	10 francs
1 egg	2 francs
Butter	50 francs per Kilo
Boots soled & heeled	41 francs

Entrained in a cattle truck at 2 PM and arrived at Tournai at 4 PM and were kept in the guard room in the station till 9 next morning, thanks to the kindness of a German Corporal we were able to buy some honey & sardines.

9th Sept Proceeded on our journey as far as ATH where the engine went away and left us stranded on the rails from 9 AM till 5 PM when we proceeded to Brussels by civil train.

During our wait on the rails whe civilians were very good, on running to his home & bringing us a huge dish of potatoes French beans & some stewed apple.

At Ath we saw an example of how the German soldiers treated the Belgian women.

Arrived at Brussels at 5 PM after a splendid view of the city particularly the Palais de Justice.

The American Red Cross gave us a 2 lb loaf of bread each cut into slices half with margarine & half with honey and 2 meat risoles which was a God send.

11 PM left Brussels & travelled all night through NAMUR & LUXEMBURG arriving at SARABUCKEN at 11 PM.

Spent the night in the waiting room.

11th Sept 4 AM left Sarabucken & arrived at STRASBOURG at 8 AM where the people seemed to meet us with pity more than hostility. We were able to buy quite a fair meal at an outrageous price. Left Strasbourg about 11 AM arriving KARLSRUHE about 2-3 PM. Here we were marched through a very fine town to the Hotel STATLER or what used to be that in better days. Scarlet Bond & I shared one room.

12th Sept Got up 10 AM feeling much better after our very tiring journey. Food was a little better but we were always hungry. MacEwen joined us. Russian prisoners brought our meals.

13th Sept Bond & I were taken to another room where there were 3 British Flying Officers (one being Shipman of Nottingham) & an American. At the present 3 are catching lice & squashing the eggs. V.B. AIR Raid.

14th, 15, 16, 17th no change

18th Sept Were taken to camp, and were able to send cable via Geneva. We were very carefully searched before being admitted to the camp, about 30 of us. After searching we are allotted to huts Scarlet, Bond, MacEwen & self going into a hut already containing 4 men Capt Wheatly, Tucker, Tayler & Benjamin a very moderate bunch. Glorious feeling to be able to walk about in the open air after our long confinement.

19th Sept Issued out with clean shirt pants & socks by Red Cross. We now start to draw Biscuits & Emergency Red Cross rations & with the help of these we are able to have one good meal a day & one or 2 biscuits for breakfast.

27th Sept Whist drive in afternoon. Concert in evening.

29th Sept 3 British & 2 American officers tried to escape, but were all caught, and we were hauled out of bed in middle of night for Roll Call.

2nd Oct Received our first pay. During this last 2 weeks I suffered much under the German bricklayer (dentist).

11th Sept 4 AM left Sarabucken & arrived at STRASBOURG at 8 AM where the people seemed to meet us with pity more than hostility. We were able to buy quite a fair meal at an outrageous price. Left Strasbourg about 11 AM arriving KARLSRUHE about 2-3 PM. Here we were marched through a very fine town to the hotel STATLER or what used to be that in better days. Scarlet Bond & I shared one room.

12th Sept Got up 10 AM feeling much better after our very tiring journey. Food was a little better but we were always hungry. MacEwen joined us. Russian prisoners brought our meals.

13th Sept Bond & I were taken to another room where there were 3 British Flying Officers (one being Shipman of Nottingham) & an American. At the present 3 are catching lice & squashing the eggs. V.B. AIR Raid.

14th, 15, 16, 17th no change

18th Sept Were taken to camp, and were able to send cable via Geneva. We were very carefully searched before being admitted to the camp, about 30 of us. After searching we are allotted to huts Scarlet, Bond, MacEwen & self going into a hut already containing 4 men Capt Wheatly, Tucker, Tayler & Benjamin a very moderate bunch. Glorious feeling to be able to walk about in the open air after our long confinement.

19th Sept Issued out with clean shirt pants & socks by Red Cross. We now start to draw Biscuits & Emergency Red Cross rations & with the help of these we are able to have one good meal a day & one or 2 biscuits for breakfast.

27th Sept Whist drive in afternoon. Concert in evening.

29th Sept 3 British & 2 American officers tried to escape, but were all caught, and we were hauled out of bed in middle of night for Roll Call.

2nd Oct Received our first pay. During this last 2 weeks I suffered much under the German bricklayer (dentist).

5th 6th 7th 1st heard news in German papers about their asking for an armistice.

Remark

Karlsruhe was a well conducted camp, the Commandant & other officers were very courteous & treated us well, we had plenty of room to walk about in & the camp was well supplied with a recreation room & library. The canteen was not a success, it was run by Germans and the prices were inflated.

8th Oct Left Karlsruhe for destination unknown 63 British Officers of all regiments except Flying Corps.

Left Karlsruhe 11.30

Arrived Heidelberg 1.30

" Frankfurt 6.30

9th Oct Last night fearfully cold had no sleep

10th Oct Arrived Berlin at 2 AM had a feed of macaroni soup about 5 AM
Left Berlin at 12.30 PM

Arrived KREUZ about 10 PM had another feed of Bread & butter, sausage & coffee substitute & a few of us managed to wangle some soup as well.

11th Oct night D--- Cold arrived 8 AM KONIZ where once again we fed. Bread & butter Sausage & Coffee

Arrived KONIGSBERG [renamed Kalingrad] at 7.30 & were shunted into a siding where we are met by a German Field Marshall & his staff, and are given another meal. Never saw so many sentries before in my life.

Slept the night in the train surrounded by sentries.

12th Oct Moved about 8.30 AM & arrived at PILLAU [renamed Baltiysk (across Gulf of Danzig from Gdansk, Poland) 9.30. We then marched about 2 miles to camp at KAMSTIGALL accompanied by Field Marshall & staff. Camp on a promontory into a bay on the Baltic.

We are the first officers to come to the camp and everything is upside down. We were all searched most thoroughly and it took nearly 3 days and as you were passed you were taken to another part of the camp.

13th Bond Scarlet & self are in the same hut with 9 others.

14 Roll call 10 AM. steps taken to form committees.

5th 6th 7th 1st heard news in German papers about their asking for an armistice.

Remark

Karlsruhe was a well conducted camp, the Commandant & other officers were very courteous & treated us well, we had plenty of room to walk about in & the camp was well supplied with a recreation room & library. The canteen was not a success, it was run by Germans and the prices were inflated.

8th Oct Left Karlsruhe for destination unknown 63 British Officers of all regiments except Flying Corps.

Left Karlsruhe 11.30

Arrived Heidelberg 1.30

" Frankfurt 6.30

9th Oct Last night fearfully cold had no sleep.

10th Oct Arrived Berlin at 2 AM had a feed of macaroni soup about 5 AM
Left Berlin at 12.30 PM

Arrived KREUZ about 10 PM had another feed of Bread & butter, sausage & coffee substitute & a few of us managed to wangle some soup as well.

11th Oct night D--- Cold arrived 8 AM KONIZ where once again we fed.
Bread & butter, Sausage & Coffee

Arrived KONIGSBERG [renamed Kalingrad] at 7.30 & were shunted into a siding where we are met by a German Field Marshall & his staff and are given another meal. Never saw so many sentries before in my life.

Slept the night in the train surrounded by sentries.

12th Oct Moved about 8.30 AM & arrived at PILLAU [renamed Baltiysk (across Gulf of Danzig from Gdansk, Poland) 9.30. We then marched about 2 miles to camp at KAMSTIGALL accompanied by Field Marshall & staff. Camp on a promontory into a bay on the Baltic.

We are the first officers to come to the camp and everything is upside down. We were all searched most thoroughly and it took nearly 3 days and as you were passed you were taken to another part of the camp.

13th Bond Scarlet & self are in the same hut with 9 others.

14 Roll call 10 AM. steps taken to form committees.

15 Food disgraceful.

Rations Breakfast coffee

Bread ration for day about 5 oz

Dinner soup made of dry mangolds

Supper soup as for lunch

This soup has practically no food value and certainly never sees meat.

18th Oct Text of Wilson's reply read to us. We evidently want no future between new German Gov & Militarists.

19th Oct Run out of dried mangolds and thank God get a few vegetables for dinner instead.

20th Oct News of fall of Lille & Ostend & good news from Palestine.

21st Oct Two doctors depart for Blighty and promised to let the authorities know about our plight.

22nd Oct Signed parole for purpose of walks & games.

A few parcels.

Went for walk for about 3/4 of hour and then found out how weak we were from starvation, I felt bad from the result all the next day. Some of the men in the camp brought considerable food with them & some got parcels, but our hut is doing a straight starve.

23rd Oct A batch of 150 Flying Officers arrive.

News of fall of Bruges & Courtrai.

No rations for new officers so had to share ours.

24th Oct The new arrivals have brought quite a bit of food & some red cross biscuits. They decide to issue 15 biscuits per man throughout the camp. I have never valued anything so much in my life.

25th Oct Text of Germanys reply to Wilson seemingly nothing to stop peace now.

27th Oct Scarlett & I found some small swedes in some refuse in the football field, and we had quite a feed

15 Food disgraceful.

Rations Breakfast coffee

Bread ration for day about 5 oz

Dinner soup made of dry mangolds

Supper soup as for lunch

This soup has practically no food value and certainly never sees meat.

18th Oct Text of Wilson's reply read to us. We evidently want no future between new German Gov & Militarists.

19th Oct Run out of dried mangolds and thank God get a few vegetables for dinner instead.

20th Oct News of fall of Lille & Ostend & good news from Palestine.

21st Oct Two doctors depart for Blighty and promised to let the authorities know about our plight.

22nd Oct Signed parole for purpose of walks & games.

A few parcels.

Went for walk for about 3/4 of hour and then found out how weak we were from starvation, I felt bad from the result all the next day. Some of the men in the camp brought considerable food with them & some got parcels, but our hut is doing a straight starve.

23rd Oct A batch of 150 Flying Officers arrive.

News of fall of Bruges & Courtrai.

No rations for new officers so had to share ours.

24th Oct The new arrivals have brought quite a bit of food & some red cross biscuits. They decide to issue 15 biscuits per man throughout the camp. I have never valued anything so much in my life.

25th Oct Text of Germanys reply to Wilson seemingly nothing to stop peace now.

27th Oct Scarlett & I found some small swedes in some refuse in the football field, and we had quite a feed.

28th Oct Text of Wilsons reply

29th Oct Another issue of 20 biscuits no more to come from that source. Turkey & Austria ask for separate peace. Hope to get home for Christmas

30th Oct Cookson gets a food parcel

31st Oct Best dinner yet.

Nov 1st Official news of revolution in Austria & flight of Kaiser Carl

Nov 2nd Another batch of officers arrive

Nov 3rd More officers arrive including Brigadier Pardre & some merchant marine officers. Good war news Turkey & Austria finished

Nov 4th Bitter cold morning. Were kept waiting a long time for morning parade so walked off parade. Burgess gets cigarette parcel. Sergeant a biscuit parcel.

Nov 5 Details of terms to Austria & Turkey. Flying officer arrested for insolence to German officer & given 3 days.

Nov 7 News arrived from Copenhagen that food from Red Cross is on the way. Lodged food complaint. Officially stated that hostilities have ceased for German staff to visit Froch.

Nov 8 Roll call to be in huts in future.

Nov 9 News of riots in Germany. Every sign of terms being accepted. Food question very acute squabbles over a few biscuits. Men show up in their true light. Scarlett dines out.

Nov 10 Kaiser & Crown Prince go. Bavaria a Republic. Armistice signed. Rumours of riots in Pillau. Roll call outside again. Boche officers seem windy. 9 PM Warning by our Brigadier to be quiet & ready for a sudden move. Stock taken of food in camp.

28th Oct Text of Wilsons reply

29th Oct Another issue of 20 biscuits no more to come from that source. Turkey & Austria ask for separate peace. Hope to get home for Christmas

30th Oct Cookson gets a food parcel

31st Oct Best dinner yet

Nov 1st Official news of revolution in Austria & flight of Kaiser Carl.

Nov 2nd Another batch of officers arrive

Nov 3 More officers arrive including Brigadier Pardre & some merchant marine officers. Good war news Turkey & Austria finished

Nov 4th Bitter cold morning. Were kept waiting a long time for morning parade so walked off parade. Burgess gets cigarette parcel. Sergeant a biscuit parcel.

Nov 5 Details of terms to Austria & Turkey. Flying officer arrested for insolence to German officer & given 3 days.

Nov 7 News arrived from Copenhagen that food from Red Cross is on the way. Lodged food complaint. Officially stated that hostilities have ceased for German staff to visit Froch.

Nov 8 Roll call to be in huts in future.

Nov 9 News of riots in Germany. Every sign of terms being accepted. Food question very acute squabbles over a few biscuits. Men show up in their true light. Scarlett dines out.

Nov 10 Kaiser & Crown Prince go. Bavaria a Republic. Armistice signed. Rumours of riots in Pillau. Roll call outside again. Boche officers seem windy. 9 PM Warning by Our Brigadier to be quiet & ready for a sudden move. Stock taken of food in camp.

Nov 11 No developments in night. General addressed us after Roll Call & told us the situation as far as he knew.
Workmen & Soldiers council in charge at Pillau & Konigsberg & wish us to take charge of camp until all arrangements made for our removal. Economy of food to be observed. (Very easy for us in our hut)
Railways said to be normal. Letters & parcels to be distributed at once by us. Officers seem to have joined the soldiers party and a little interpreter seems to be the chief man amongst the Germans now, all their officers and men have taken off their had badges.
The little interpreter was only last week given 3 days CB [Confined to Barracks] for getting food through from outside to us.

12 Armistice definitely signed. All we now want is food & letters.

13th The greatest day of all
Campbell received clothes parcel & gave me braces & shaving soap & brush.
A sailor gave me a piece of soap.
The help committee gave me a pair of servicable boots.
In the evening I received a 1st captured parcel containing
2 oz packet of tobacco
" " chocolate
Golden syrup
Rice
Turbon pudding
Ginger pudding
Sugar
Golden-syrup
Soap
Shaving Soap
Bully
Sausages. Veal loaf
Potted meat
Army rations
Cocoa & Nestles milk

Bond went out to dinner with the Colonel so the remainder of our mess Scarlet & Self had a great meal of Bully & boiled rice with Nestles milk.
The only time I have ever nearly satisfied my appetite since captured.
We have a splendid hut & all help each other.

Nov 11 No developments in night. General addressed us after Roll Call & told us the situation as far as he knew.
Workmen & Soldiers council in charge at Pillau & Konigsberg & wish us to take charge of camp until all arrangements made for our removal. Economy of food to be observed. (Very easy for us in our hut)
Railways said to be normal. Letters & parcels to be distributed at once by us. Officers seem to have joined the soldiers party and a little interpreter seems to be the chief man amongst the Germans now, all their officers and men have taken off their had badges.
The little interpreter was only last week given 3 days C [Confined to Barracks] for getting food through from outside to us.

12 Armistice definitely signed. All we now want is food & letters.

13th The greatest day of all
Campbell received clothes parcel & gave me braces & shaving soap & brush.
A sailor gave me a piece of soap.
The help committee gave me a pair of servicable boots.
In the evening I received a 1st captured parcel containing
2 oz packet of tobacco
" " chocolate
Golden syrup
Rice
Turbon pudding
Ginger pudding
Sugar
~~Golden-syrup~~
Soap
Shaving Soap
Bully
Sausages. Veal loaf
Potted meat
Army rations
Cocoa & Nestles milk

Bond went out to dinner with the Colonel so the remainder of our mess Scarlet & Self had a great meal of Bully & boiled rice with Nestles milk.
The only time I have ever nearly satisfied my appetite since captured.
We have a splendid hut & all help each other.

Our mess have divided the tobacco which is a godsend. Bosche tell us of the news of a revolt in France & British Navy. (not believed by us)

15 Nov Pay day !!! Do not know why it is termed so as, after 3 months in Germany & in that time having received only 30 marks I was told I am 18.35 in the hole

16 Nov Cheers!! Bread arrived at last from Copenhagen. Beautiful white bread in 2 lbs loaves. 2 loaves each to last a week. Made pigs of ourselves at tea with toast.
Hampton dines out with Robrin & makes a beast of himself on his celebrated duff.

18 Nov Told to be ready to move any day

19 Nov Wrote to Grace. Bitterly Cold.

20 Nov Woke up to find the ground covered with snow. German papers say we are to go home via Copenhagen.

21st Nov another issue of bread

22nd Nov Announced that definite news of our departure is expected in a day or 2. We are to go to Stettin [renamed Szczecin] thence by boat to Copenhagen. All greatly excited.

23rd Nov Germany reports that the British Casualties are

Total	3,049,991
Killed	37,876 officers
"	720,728 O.R. [Other Ranks]

Snow still covers ground. Wind very cold & icy where frozen hard. Still patiently waiting a letter.

24th Still freezing. Went to Church

Rumours that we are now going back home from Konigsburg.

25 Nov 58 R.A.F. officers arrive from a camp near Munich, to join us for our homeward journey. The latest rumour is that we start from here 4th Dec. Issued with half a loaf of bread.

Our mess have divided the tobacco which is a godsend. Bosche tell us of the news of a revolt in France & British Navy (not believed by us)

15 Nov Pay day !!! Do not know why it is termed so as, after 3 months in Germany & in that time having received only 30 marks I was told I am 18.35 in the hole

16 Nov Cheers!! Bread arrived at last from Copenhagen. Beautiful white bread in 2 lbs loaves. 2 loaves each to last a week. Made pigs of ourselves at tea with toast.
Hampton dines out with Robrin & makes a beast of himself on his celebrated duff.

18 Nov Told to be ready to move any day

19 Nov Wrote to Grace. Bitterly Cold.

20 Nov Woke up to find the ground covered with snow. German papers say we are to go home via Copenhagen.

21st Nov another issue of bread

22nd Nov Announced that definite news of our departure is expected in a day or 2. We are to go to Stettin [renamed Szczecin] thence by boat to Copenhagen. All greatly excited.

23rd Nov Germany reports that the British Casualties are

Total	3,049,991
Killed	37,876 officers
"	720,728 O.R. [Other Ranks]

Snow still covers ground. Wind very cold & icy where frozen hard. Still patiently waiting a letter.

24th Still freezing. Went to Church

Rumours that we are now going back home from Konigsburg.

25 Nov 58 R.A.F. officers arrive from a camp near Munich, to join us for our homeward journey. The latest rumour is that we start from here 4th Dec. Issued with half a loaf of bread.

26th Nov Run out of Bread. No signs of letters or parcels.

27th Nov General Cunyngham had us together & told us he had been officially told by General Lehmann that we are to be off in 10 days. Got some Bosche tobacco from Cantine. The 1st we have had since we left Lille. Not much good but makes a smoke.

28th Nov Very cold, very hungry. Worst Birthday I ever remember.

29th Nov Rumour that we are to leave Tuesday Dec 3rd, still nothing in food line

30th Nov Issue of 3 biscuits each. Scarlett receives a Regimental parcel, once more we can eat in moderation.

1st Dec Feeling fine thanks to grub. Bacon for lunch with Bosche bread fried in the fat. Rhubarb pudding for dinner.

2nd Dec The day of all 2 letters one from home one from Mother & one from Grace announcing the birth of Joan Elizabeth. Most thankful to hear all are well at home.

Rumour that we are not to go on 4th.
Scarlett also got a letter from his sister.

Last night Scarlett dreamed that Bond had a letter from home but that there was nothing for himself or me, when he woke he said that dreams always come contrary.

3rd Dec Bond receives 1st capture parcel.

4th Dec Bread arrives so now we have plenty to eat.

News that 1000 emergency parcels are at Pillau so we are at the end of our starvation days.

Reported that we leave Dec 14th.

5th Dec

Great news today!!!

Have received wire from Berlin to say that we are to leave here either tomorrow or day after & our boat leaves Danzig at 4 AM on Sunday the 8th.

We can hardly believe it.

Also a Red Cross representative arrived from Copenhagen today with a huge amount of clothing & food.

26th Nov Run out of Bread. No signs of letters or parcels.

27th Nov General Cunyngham had us together & told us he had been officially told by General Lehmann that we are to be off in 10 days. Got some Bosche tobacco from Cantine. The 1st we have had since we left Lille. Not much good but makes a smoke.

28th Nov Very cold, very hungry. Worst Birthday I ever remember.

29th Nov Rumour that we are to leave Tuesday Dec 3rd, still nothing in food line

30th Nov Issue of 3 biscuits each. Scarlett receives a Regimental parcel, once more we can eat in moderation.

1st Dec Feeling fine thanks to grub. Bacon for lunch with Bosche bread fried in the fat. Rhubarb pudding for dinner.

2nd Dec The day of all 2 letters one from home one from Mother & one from Grace announcing the birth of Joan Elizabeth. Most thankful to hear all are well at home.

Rumour that we are not to go on 4th.

Scarlett also got a letter from his sister.

Last night Scarlett dreamed that Bond had a letter from home but that there was nothing for himself or me, when he woke he said that dreams always come contrary.

3rd Dec Bond receives 1st capture parcel.

4th Dec Bread arrives so now we have plenty to eat.

News that 1000 emergency parcels are at Pillau so we are at the end of our starvation days.

Reported that we leave Dec 14th.

5th Dec

Great news today!!!

Have received wire from Berlin to say that we are to leave here either tomorrow or day after & our boat leaves Danzig at 4 AM on Sunday the 8th.

We can hardly believe it.

Also a Red Cross representative arrived from Copenhagen today with a huge amount of clothing & food.

Have got a pair of socks & pair of underdrawers (Made by G W Gibson & Son of Nottingham)
The Bosche cannot (or wont) look after us. Our own old country will.

6th Dec

News arrives that boat is 15 hours late at Danzig so our start is postponed.
Feeling result of plenty to eat

7th Dec Emergency parcels arrive 3 per hut.
Had to see Dr Davis
Leave tonight or early tomorrow morning

Have got a pair of socks & pair of underdrawers
(Made by G W Gibson & Son of Nottingham)
The Bosche cannot (or wont) look after us. Our own old country will.

6th Dec

News arrives that boat is 15 hours late at Danzig so our start is postponed.
Feeling result of plenty to eat

7th Dec Emergency parcels arrive 3 per hut.
Had to see Dr Davis
Leave tonight or early tomorrow morning



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

1918.

The Queen joins me in welcoming you on your release from the miseries & hardships, which you have endured with so much patience & courage.

During these many months of trial, the early rescue of our gallant Officers & Men from the cruelties of their captivity has been uppermost in our thoughts.

We are thankful that this longed for day has arrived, & that back in the old Country you will be able once more to enjoy the happiness of a home & to see good days among those who anxiously look for your return.

George R. J.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

1918

The Queen joins me in welcoming you on your release from the miseries and hardships which you have endured with so much patience and courage.

During these many months of trial the early rescue of our gallant Officers and Men from the cruelties of their captivity has been uppermost in our thoughts.

We are thankful that this longed for day has arrived and that back in the old Country you will be able once more to enjoy the happiness of a home & to see good days among those who anxiously look for your return.

George R. J.

Good places in London for meals

Pinoli Coventry Street near Leicester Lounge
Goblin Haddon St of Regents Street
Simpsons in Strand
Scotts Picadilly for Shell fish
Flemings Oxford St for homely food

Old fashioned places in City

Wilkinsons Wallbrook. City
Cheshire Cheese Fleet Street

Hotels

Bonnington Hotel near Russel Square. Russel Street. Holborn
Norfolk Hotel in Strand
Gows Restaurant in Strand for steak & kidney pudding & oysters

Books & Authors

Vachell Quinneys & Brothers
Arnold Bennet Old wives tales
Maurice Heulett Open country
Halfway house
Rest Harrow
Letters to Lencia

Compton Mckenzie

Sinister Street
Guy & Pauline

Gilbert Cannon

Modern

Young earnest
Four just men

W L George

Making of an Englishman
Oliver Onion

H G Wells

Research Magnificent
Passionate friends
Mr Brittny sees it through
Marriage
Wife of Sir Isac Harmon

Stephen McKenna

Sonia
The Sixth Sense

Good places in London for meals

Pinoli Coventry Street near Leicester Lounge
Goblin Haddon St of Regents Street
Simpsons in Strand
Scotts Picadilly for Shell fish
Flemings Oxford St for homely food

Old fashioned places in City

Wilkinsons Wallbrook. City
Cheshire Cheese Fleet Street

Hotels

Bonnington Hotel near Russel Square. Russel Street. Holborn
Norfolk Hotel in Strand
Gows Restaurant in Strand for steak & kidney pudding & oysters

Books & Authors

Vachell Quinneys & Brothers
Arnold Bennet Old wives tales
Maurice Heulett Open country
Halfway house
Rest Harrow
Letters to Lencia

Compton Mckenzie

Sinister Street
Guy & Pauline

Gilbert Cannon

Modern

Young earnest
Four just men

W L George

Making of an Englishman
Oliver Onion

H G Wells

Research Magnificent
Passionate friends
Mr Brittny sees it through
Marriage
Wife of Sir Isac Harmon

Stephen McKenna

Sonia
The Sixth Sense

William de Morvin
Hugh Walpole Fortitude
Mary ~~Dominion~~ Johnson
Old Dominion
Jean Webster Daddy Longlegs
Henry James The American
The Golden Bowl
George Merideth
Charlotte ~~Brunton~~ Bronte Wuthering Heights
John Masefield Multitude & Solitude
Fred White
Joseph Hocking Sword of the Lord
Garden of Allah
Scarlet Woman
S R Crocket
Mrs Baily Reynolds Supreme Test
Justice Miles Torman Garden of Mystery
Eden Philpotts Human Boy
Marjorie Bowen Third Estate
Black Magic
William by the Grace of God
Sax Rohmer
Robert Chambers
Anatole France The Crime of Silvester Bonard
Joseph Conrad Romance
Victory
Sybil Lethbridge
George Birmingham Spanish Gold
Search Party

William de Morvin
Hugh Walpole Fortitude
Mary ~~Dominion~~ Johnson
Old Dominion
Daddy Longlegs
The American
The Golden Bowl
George Merideth
Charlotte ~~Brunton~~ Bronte Wuthering Heights
John Masefield Multitude & Solitude
Fred White
Joseph Hocking Sword of the Lord
Garden of Allah
Scarlet Woman
S R Crocket
Mrs Baily Reynolds Supreme Test
Justice Miles Torman Garden of Mystery
Eden Philpotts Human Boy
Marjorie Bowen Third Estate
Black Magic
William by the Grace of God
Sax Rohmer
Robert Chambers
Anatole France The Crime of Silvester Bonard
Joseph Conrad Romance
Victory
Sybil Lethbridge
George Birmingham Spanish Gold
Search Party

Sir William Magnay
Master Spirit
Maud Annesley
Shadow Shapes
Hyder Haggard
Marie
Eric Brighteyes
Montezuma's Daughter
Statchpole
Blue Horizon
Edgar Jepson
Garden of Mystery
Locke
Beloved Vagabond
Simon the Jester
Morals of Marcus Audaire
Gertrude Page
The Great Splendour
George Gissing
House of Cobwebs
Edna Lyal
Knight Errant
Coningsly Dawson
Rafts

Sir William Magnay
Master Spirit
Maud Annesley
Shadow Shapes
Hyder Haggard
Marie
Eric Brighteyes
Montezuma's Daughter
Statchpole
Blue Horizon
Edgar Jepson
Garden of Mystery
Locke
Beloved Vagabond
Simon the Jester
Morals of Marcus Audaire
Gertrude Page
The Great Splendour
George Gissing
House of Cobwebs
Edna Lyal
Knight Errant
Coningsly Dawson
Rafts

F Burgess
Westholme
Lower Peover
Knutsford
Cheshire

F Burgess
Westholme
Lower Peover
Knutsford
Cheshire

J C D Scarlett
31 Boulevard Haussman
Paris

J C D Scarlett
31 Boulevard Haussman
Paris

J D Hampton
10 Manley Road
Whalley Range
Manchester

JD Hampton
10 Manley Road
Whalley Range
Manchester

W H Bond
Capital & Counties Bank
Finsbury Circus
London EC

W H Bond
Capital & Counties Bank
Finsbury Circus
London EC

A F McEwen Jnr
52 Albirt Drive
Crosshill
Glasgow
Scotland

A F McEwen Jnr
52 Albirt Drive
Crosshill
Glasgow
Scotland

J.A.S. Gardner
789 Beverley St G.2469.
Winnipeg
R.A.C. Man. Canada

J.A.S. Gardner
789 Beverley St G.2469.
Winnipeg
R.A.C. Man. Canada

J C D Scarlett
89 Geraldine Rd
Wandsworth
SW 16

J C D Scarlett
89 Geraldine Rd
Wandsworth
SW16

John R Robertson
2 Queens Gardens
Sunderland

John R Robertson
2 Queens Gardens
Sunderland

R. Carleton
Hartington
Ontario, Canada
14-12-18

B. L. Rigden
60 Burgate
Canterbury

Leave of absence form
B 3A
Deputy director of personal service
War Office
Will you please send me the

Sauder & Lovick

Pte C Jones
No. 1 Leyton Square
Peckham Park Rd
Peckham SE15

Mr Goadly
46 London Rd
Reading

Pte E W Collins
2 Clopton Rd
Stratford on Avon
Warwickshire

Spr F C Critchley
No 688041
10th C R T

YMCA Hut 3
Willy Camp
Surrey

R. Carleton
Hartington
Ontario, Canada
14-12-18

B. L. Rigden
60 Burgate
Canterbury

Leave of absence form
B 3A
Deputy director of personal service
War Office
Will you please send me the

Sauder & Lovick

Pte C Jones
No. 1 Leyton Square
Peckham Park Rd
Peckham SE15

Mr Goadly
46 London Rd
Reading

Pte E W Collins
2 Clopton Rd
Stratford on Avon
Warwickshire

Spr F C Critchley
No 688041
10th C R T

YMCA Hut 3
Willy Camp
Surrey

T Richardson
Eastfield House
15 Granville Rd
Jesmond
Newcastle on Tyne

Trooper W R Tozer
R.I.A. 3
The Canadian Record Office
Old Baily
London EC4

T Richardson
Eastfield House
15 Granville Rd
Jesmond
Newcastle on Tyne

Trooper W R Tozer
R.I.A 3
The Canadian Record Office
Old Baily
London EC4



2004.000.025 Rosemary Wentworth & George Gibson, 1941