

A brief diary of
Sapper H. G. Anderson's
No 2 Section.

2nd Last H. w. leg boy

To the reader.
Please excuse brefam
owing to the war,
economy will &
paper must be
shared.

In commencing I will go back to July 27th 1915 on which day I travelled from St Augusta to Adelaide for the purpose of presenting my self before the recruiting staff at Carine Street. After a day connected with another day on the teeth I have not got. They came to the conclusion I was a fit & proper person to be a member of the A.S. Forces. After spending a few days in the said city I returned to St. Augusta to fix up I had left undone. On August 9th I found myself again in the train going to Adelaide on the 11th instant I again visited Carine Street after a considerable wait I was sworn in & marched off to the exhibition camp. There one received blue flannel & white

bed blankets & various other items. We were drafted off into sections & shown into our sleeping quarters which were marks Price Cattle. Everything was white washed & looked clean. So one soon settled down to a recruits life. Well readers I would dwell on camp life too much longer after a coarse of training forming fours route marching etc at the said camp ~~Morpethville~~ I went to the Mitcham Camp to the Signalling School after a course of flag waving bugle practice & lectures time passed until we find our selves in the month of Dec 1915 about the middle of that month our of added for 5 volunteers for the 3rd platoon big boy

The writer stepped out with
others & four others & self were
chosen. We were informed
we would probably have to
go immediately without our
leave. Luck had it however
we got our leave because
although not long better than
none. It was on time to
leave I again found myself
home dressed in H.M. uniform
after spending a few happy
days at home Dec 28th
arrived on which day
the sun didn't forget
to rise too, & needless to
mention made its presence
felt on the journey back
to Adelais. Arriving some
what tired & hot I searched
in the City for a bed for
the night after a considerable
hunt I found a vacant
room in a hotel. if I
remember rightly it was
the Black Bull or John Bull.
However I don't know about

the name as long as the bed was
clear which I crossed twice
On Dec 29th at 4 pm
or there abouts we were
placed in the Melbourne
express waiting for time
Our party was 10 all fine
fellows. Some of them had
their people down at the
station to say farewell
by then a sight I don't
like witnessing "pack"
the whistle blew hard
please said guard the green
flag was shown to the drivers
& we waved farewell to
the folk remaining on
the platform.

On the morning of the 30th
I awoke in time to get a
bit of breakfast at Ballard
a sausage & piece of bread
Chips of the 2^f class
Thank you good morning
& we proceeded arriving
in the city of Melbourne
about 10.30 am

After waiting about on the Station for some time we were marched off to the Domain Camp. We immediately applied for our furlough leave, but that unfortunately was not granted us. However the O.C. Legions gave us practically most of our time in Melbourne off with the exception of about a couple of gunnery parades & rifle shooting at Williamstown. So the old year dissolved & new year of 1916 came in very quietly & orderly. were the streets of Melbourne on the early morning of the new year.

We 10 A.M. took advantage of our time in Melbourne & saw as much as we could of that city. The people seemed very kind & friendly. St Paul Cathedral, also places of amusement.

On Active Service

January 5th 1916 arrived up bright & early till packed full in roll call quick march to the station we get on train & proceed to St Albans despatch & march to the pier citizens are crowded each side of the road as we march down we are arrive on the pier & there await our transfer A19 we embark & steam off at midday the waving & crying on the part of the passengers heart left the flags who we leaving to the writer they were all strangers but still he cannot forget it. we steamed for some hours & then anchored off Queenscliff while some ships were gone to gear whilst waiting motor boat, sailing boats, rowing boats, all full of

At 11.30pm on the 10th
we arrived Zeboan
My first duty was real
mooring to lead cable
home to the Effect plate
all was well. Our first
place of visit was
to ~~see~~ Marys Well &
free church Evening
Heliopolis 12th visited
Cairo. Took advantage
of my time in Egypt
visited all 2 possibly
coasts of the ancient
places. Giza and
Pyramids etc.
On March 7th our late
pal Bert Riddell took
bad & taken to hospital
on March 15 our Hale died
On the 16th our friend
remains were buried in
the Cairo Cemetery I met
his bro at the grave
& went back to Cairo
with him volunteered we were
called to go away no one

Knew where 14 were
required I was one of the
fourteen so it was on
the wee hours of
morning of March 21st
we marched out of Zeboan
Camp to a siding to
entain our trains left
at 7.20 am arriving at
Cairo 7.50 am and at 8.10a
we again proceeded each
one was querying where
we were going however
at a. 1.30 pm it was
quite clear we were
going to Embark as
we steamed in to Alexandria
Transport per Steamer
in the foul. and at 2.30p
we were on board our
transport TG062 or the
name SS Oriana at 6pm
ropes were let free &
we steamed out everyone
seems satisfied we were
on our way to France
Now we proceeded with

on escort some distance
from us On the 24th
we stopped out side
of Malta waiting orders
but soon proceeded on
our journey again

The food was very good
compared to what we
received on our previous
transport to "El Africa".
Our hunger perhaps has
increased

We were steaming in
zig zag course to dodge
Submarines & wearing
out life belts all day.

Submarines however kept
away from all day thankful
today & so we are
in Marseilles 5.30 pm on
the 26th March quite
a full change we
stayed on boats that
night & on the following
day at 12.15 pm we marched
off the transports & came
off our destination in

There was still unknown
to us & so we journeyed
on through beautiful
Country & important
railway center Venice
People appeared delighted
to see us waving as
we pass through the
various stations
It was at a station called
St Rock that I had my
first know ball fight
Our journey went on
until 10.15 pm on the
night of the 29th when
we descended at
Capo. On arriving
there Indians were specifically
the only troops there
& Australians were
done what a novelty
On April the 6th our
friends Norman & David
got the mumps which
to our sorrow we
in the same tent were
isolated for a term of

21 days on the BN
Scotty got promoted & our
line dates from the 12th
on the 24 another member
got them & so we stayed
on on 25th we were
all calmly sleeping
about midnight there was
a terrible explosion
followed by others on
pulling out head out
of the tent W. Zapp
was dropping some of
his iron pills however
although he was close
to the hospital no
damage was done
it was on June 13th
that we were released
from isolation camp
making our stay there
75 days during that
time there is nothing
of interest to relate
Parades & route marches
were our daily routine
not forgetting stew for dinner

Every day since we came
out of isolation we were
anxious to join our unit
& we tried very hard to get
away. On July 18th we
proceeded to ABBEVILLE
Some how that relieved us
as we were free of
ETAPLES. We arrived at
Abbeville about 9.30 pm
This town was rather a
nice place & very pretty.
We were under the Germans
there & the base staff
were of a good kind.
There were NZ South African
Australian Canadians &
quite a variety but all
worked well together.
It was on July 28th
anniversary of the date
of my earliest news that
I proceeded to AMIENS to
see my Bro Sapp. Scolden &
& needless to mention we
enjoyed ourselves for the
short time we were together.

We visited the Cathedral & purchased some photos of the Cathedral & posted to Dad my pass was only made out to Ancient Stallop & not for the town & naturally the Military Police kept wanting see my pass they had to be satisfied by seeing my railway warrant.

At about 9 pm I arrived back at Abbeyville quite pleased with myself & I knew the folk at home would be pleased too that I had the good luck to meet Geo. From Abbeyville I took 5 or 6 booklets of H.C.s home to Lab. My home was quite ^{ENTERTAINABLE} at Abbeyville was & one had a good opportunity to learn. It was on August 2nd 1916 I came back on a Cala wagon at dinner time & looked on the board to see who were to go away

that day. Anderson, Anderson Daniels & Barnet. are to go to 2nd line big lots they will report 1:30 pm to orderly room to see Equipment is complete at 5 pm we go down to the Station & wait there until 10:30 pm when our train leaves. I do not rec'd much rocking that night we laid down on the seats. awoke next morning still on the move. The distance from Abbeyville is between 30 & 40 Kilometers a good train would make the run in an hour but 24 hours found us at our destination making it now 10:30 pm on 3rd that night we slept out in the open somewhere. The suns were going their hardest flies were going up Aeroplanes & Balloons all gave us the idea there was war on.

Only too true there was
on the 4th of August.
We reported to 2nd Div HQ
The OC gave us instructions
to go to the 5th Brigade
a Motor car was brought
around for us. So we
four found ourselves
going along in style per
Motor Car. So we travelled
until the car cooled. So no
further without being
observed. Shells & pieces
were to complete the rest
of journey & so we started
going through Sausage
Gully there was a continual
Bang Bang Bang & the
retaliation was like
bang strapless high
explosives were bursting
all around us we had
no shell hole we were
passing wounded going to
the dressing station until
we came to the 5th Brigade
HQ which was a cellar

After reporting we looked
for dug outs for sleeping
I eventually found one
with a sheet of iron & some
sand bags on was making
myself comfortable when
bang & poof a shell had
landed & dug a deep ditch
up the smell was bad
thing that bunch of biscuits
We recalled ourselves
to the fact that we were at
war now & not reading of
it & of course these
minor details pass
unnoticed now. We
were soon put on duty
I was allotted telephoneist
duty. It was on account
of four or five of section
being gassed that we
came to reinforce that
night he gave our head quarters
a good shelling including
gas shells sleep was out
of the question as one
had to have gas helmet

on & off most of the night.
Our boys attacked that
night & captured a ridge
which was off seal in position
to us. About midnight on
the 5th our Brigade came
out. I was not sorry
as it was a very
hot initiation & not
many had a higher one
prior to going to the
Somme the Aust were
up North & it was
quiet then & they got
gradually broken in to.
The hell fire we arrived
at Para Hill in the wee hours
of the 6th about midday
General Birdwood addressed
us & we marched off
via Albert to Warlencourt
& needless to say we
had to be back about
On the 8th we packed up
& marched off to LAVICOGNE
It was a 17 mile march &
very hot too. Next day on

the march again to PERNOS
This was another hot march
we enjoyed our few days
at PERNOS on 16th we
again were on the march to
LAVICOGNE. Next day 17th
on the march again
we arrive at VADENCOURT
full slit & rapids march
no bon this weather
the 20th arrive & away we
go again on the march
arriving at ALBERT
heavy bombardment going
on ~~near~~ ALBERT about 8-30pm
arriving at SAUSAGE GULLY
10pm we stayed there
that night in a big
dug out which was once
a Pub on the 22nd
we proceed further up to
our advance Brigade HQ
Pretty lively time reaching
there too during the night
we kept a continuous bomb
ardment up. The linesmen were
kept busy all night mending

Wined 24th still subject
to shelling including
four hours gas shelling
very unpleasant having
to sit & wear helmet
I fell off to sleep with
more or in the dug out
We had a pretty rough
time in shelling thanks
to one of Fritz' deep dug
out if stopped Shrapnel
& H.C. It was on the
27th when the 7th Bde
relieved us at 6.30pm
we made a start to
go out the Fritz made a
sharp fire by spelling so
we stayed for a while
until he cooled down
a bit however we arrived
at Brick field about 8.30p
m, on duty 12 midnight
to 4 am very cold in the
dug out. 28th went onto
ALBERT Duty bombing all
day HE & Shrapnel on
road. Balloon pro planed

busy in the dug out &
was keeping Rats & fox
were also sharing it
at 8.30am moved off
again arriving at WARLOY
Done line during day
day on the 31st
General Purwood addressed
us a presents decorations
to home at 1.15 pm on
same day we marched
off for BEAUVILLE a
1½ miles march on a
hot day with full pack
we arrived at BEAUVILLE
at 7.45 pm needless to
say very tired. Sgt. Daniels
took ill during night
& taken to hospital where
he died during our stay
at Beaville on Sept 4th
or rather the 5th at 2.30
A.M. we awoke & left
BEAUVILLE at 3.30 am for
DOULLEENS arrived at 5 am
entrained & left at 6.20 am
arriving at a siding called

Hopeful or Done such was
however we hopped out
& marched to POPERINGHE
very miserable day Went
down the Street first
having a feed of chip
potatoes & eggs & when
bang, bang, bang fell
a couple of long range
shells over the town on
folk got down the Cellars
& shied up their shops
I found myself outside
& the Civilians running
all ways it caused some
amusement amongst the boys
as to shell. fell a
considerable distance
from the town on the
6th I met Harry Morris
had a good yarn.
POPERINGHE was a nice
large town enjoyed
ourselves here the
Flemish folk appear
very nice & mostly talk
a little English

On the 9th at 9.30 pm
left POPERINGHE for EPPYRES
by train arrived at
9.30 pm detains & march
to our Bde HQ reaching
there at 10.15 am very
comfortable HQ in
Ranpart. On duty
midnight to 21 am
we stayed at EPPRES until
the 6th October 2nd week
dwelt on each days
routine but it was
a lovely HQ best we
have had our position
was in a salient
of course the enemy had
a good view from Hill 60
to work about during the
day it was not the safest
I visited the ruins of
Epernay it is a large town
but largely ruined now
by shell fire Aeroplanes
were very busy on the
sector & we often witness
air duell. Shelling was

about 6pm I had a
lovely blister on my heel
however it did not heat me
I struck to the March
until about 8 quarters of a
mile from the village
then could not bear it
so came along at my own
pace leaving a letter from
Olive & her pleasure the up
one wheel. The village
was not of any importance
posted cheap card home
& visited few ambulances
who had bandages
On the 24th we were on
the move again starting
at Port REMNEY at 3.40 pm
via CALIS & BOULONNE too
dark to see these places
as I would of liked to
at midnight I found we
arrived at BALLANCOURT
& soon made my bed on
the nice cold floor made
from concrete. This
village was only a

for all one about 6 Kilos
from Abbeville. ~~the 10 miles~~
was very cold & bleak.
no bon at all on
the 26th at how we
had breakfast ready to
March at few Kilos.
to continue our trip via
PICQUENY & AMIENS per
motor transport arriving
at RIBEMONT about 10 pm
Same night a very cold
ride it was too it
was needless to say
that we were back to
go on the "Somme" front
again ^{too}
On the 28th I was looking
for these beastly "Chab"
in my shirt when who
should come in my
elaborate billet built
to keep the fresh cows
in on piece time. Never
mind it was a covering
that waggled bed as
long as the floor was dry

Yes as I mentioned who
should come in but "George
my Bro. & needless to
say I was so pleased to
see him. So I spent on
duty we went for a
week together & had a
few cups of Coffee at
a "Café" and a good you.
The next day I paid him
a visit at Hailey where
he was billeted after
having a piece of toast
& a cup of tea. I had
to go back as the weather
was looking very不良的
He walked down the
road with me for
some distance & we
said fare well again
& so him went on with
very cold & wet weather
November 4th arrived
the form four & march
off again with pack up
& it was done March
too not to be forgotten

too soon, the mud was
unyielding bogged up to the
knees all over the place
We arrive at MONTABAN
which was once a
village but not a sign
of a building nor one
tree nor not even a
brick
On the 6th it was another
move closer to Truy
this time & the march
was before we reached
our HQ was no bon
besides dodging shelling
& shrapnel Our HQ was
in the valley of death we
relieved the 7th Bde who
made an attack, but
were not too successful
On our arrival the stretcher
bearers were busy carrying
wounded. There were many
evacuated with broken
feet too the trenches were
terribly full of muck
& impossible to have

& during our time here
the weather was miserable
& cold we wrote letters
& received letters however
on the 30th we were
once again on the move
the roads were fairly
good for marching
we arrive at RAINNEVILLE
about 5 pm I met Harry
Norris & his Bde the
3rd Marched out & we took
their place On 1st Sunday
in advent on Dec 3rd
I with others proceeded
on bikes to AMIENS
After a fall in the street
of Amiens one of the
wheels of my bike got
caught in the horses line
& the consequence the bike
refused to go & I had
to pick myself up from
the ground I left my
bike or at least it became
a pile I put it all right
After looking over the town

I got my bike about 4:30 p
& proceeded on my homeward
journey I took the PERONNE
road to go back & all
was going well, taken
until when I was going
down a hill the bike
didn't need any pushing
down the hill In fact it
was going to fast for
my liking I went to put
the break on but if did
not act & the next thing
I knew I found the bike on
top of me I picked myself
up with the loss
of some skin & the
gaines of some bruises
I was too sore to get
on the bike again so lead
it back to ~~RAINNEVILLE~~
RAINNEVILLE to the
amusement of the boys
I might say that is the
last ride I have had a
on a bike I am not at
all friendly with tree wheels

billet now, we were at Rainneville until the 17th Dec it was only a small village the billet we were at the old "Hame" used to come & count the raffers in the shed we occupied in case we burnt any. On the 17th we were on the march again from 9.30 am arriving at DURANCOURT sometime during the afternoon. On the 19th we were on our march again to the ~~to~~ once ~~was~~ village of FRICOURT but no sign of any village now. On the 20th left FRICOURT & arrived MONTAUBAN very cold Camp not quite so muddy. On 22nd we left MONTAUBAN at 8 am Arriving at our HQ at Sun Valley about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from DELVILLE WOOD

DELVILLE WOOD Readers you remember was where the Aficianed Shows the Huns what they could do & one could see that it must have been a big struggle to gain this position. It was a sight I do not care to witness to see the bodies laying as they fell of the Enemy & those who die gaining this position. We received the 14 Bde. here 24th Decr. I received a nice letter from Miss Pollock. Some of the boys returning parades. Our Batteries sending best New Year greetings 25th I was day break to communion service held in a dug out. Bacon & bread for breakfast. Dinner ^{STEW} flavoured by Curry Tea bread & jam Weather cold & showery unkinnted shelling 7.20 Every day ended with long thoughts of home

Jan 5th A year since
I left Australia.
It was a much finer day
for observation. The places
were busy too, & the days
pass while the 8th
arrives when sapper
Simp & myself were
detailed to go to FRICOURT
Power & buzzard School
& so we proceed with
full packs up to
March arriving about
6 pm very miserable
& tired I was feeling
off color slunk my
time there I was off
color I had no appetite
& our sleeping quarters
were very cold & sloopy
& on the 12th we
leave FRICOURT & go
back to our unit & what
a time we had to be packing
through the snow looking
for our Bed H.Q.

We found it at last
in reserve. HQ were
in a terrible deep dug
out supposed to have
been the Crown Prince's
HQ. It was certainly a
very elaborate dug out.
I wasn't feeling at all
well. Done shell hole
water evidently didn't
agree with me On
the 12th I went &
seen the D's of the
12th field ambulance
Dropping very heavily
all day. I slept there
that night Next day
I was sent down to
BECORDEL after going
through a lot of red
tape I finally got
down to BELGE FARM
near ALBERT & slept in
a hut for that night
The D's visited other &
myself in the morning
of the 18th. Went to bed

again sat on light diet
Weather terribly cold
On the 21st I got up
for awhile on the 22nd
left the ward west
to convalescent Remained
in Convalescent until
the 28th of Jan. On
& passed to Colles
I left convalescent Camp
& marched to DURANCOURT
& joined my Rde again
Received several letters
from home & friends
Next day left DURANCOURT
for ALBERT during
the night Pifly dropped
a few bombs over
the town On the
21st we left ALBERT
for SHELTER WOOD
Why it was called shelter
wood I don't know No
shelters & no wood probably
before the war it was
as its name suggests.

Feby 1st up at 6 am
breakfast 6.30 am Quick
March 7.30 am Roads
very slippery being frozen
Every two paces forward
you would slip back
One PM at Oise
Riding (Pretty name
isnt it?) here we
procured two or three
mucks of the ANZAC
LIGHT RAILWAY loaded
here with stones
& other things dear
not forgetting the cooks
Dear too harnesses
ourselves to them &
walked & passed walking
in the snow we are
at last at MARTINVICH
Received the clothes
I was sent up for
visual skin very cold
& small dug out I had
too. On 2nd I received
a parcel from Elle
Pipe tobacco & socks

On the 3rd I was relieved from the usual & went back to the Switch boxes. Putz sat a good few of his nasty whiz bangs & sappers did stopped a piece of one & was evacuated. & the time goes on till the 5th arrives & the 6th Bde relieved us to return to Shelter Wood after a lively few minutes coming out the ground still frozen arrived at Shelter Wood 7 pm Putz plane comes over & drops a bomb on one of the hills & killed 8 & wounded 11 on duty midnight to 8 am. terribly cold February 9 p.m. Eggn make tracks to the right of Mahrpuich.

This time we were a little more comfortable here than on the left. our dug out was much better too & so we remained until the 27th during our time here like most other places in line the routine is practically the same but planet his planet busy our shells busy his shells busy some times our boys would pop over & score a win it was on the 24th of Feb when first we caught the information that he was withdrawing everything being in his favor foggy weather visibility very bad. On returning to Shelter Wood we hear that putz had fallen & 100 prisoners got pleased with that news

It was on March 6th
we again move off
to DEATH VALLEY It certainly
wasn't a very comfortable
valley at times Our
HQ were off though
bad we have had
yet in the line some
of our make what
I mean by our make
British make
We stayed here until
the 12th intermittent
shelling was going
on places were
busy hardly a day
passed without a
air duel was on
a cheer would go up
from the boys if
a Putz place was
brought down At 3.30
pm we left pulling
a truck with gear
on to go to our
new position

After a lot of messsing
about we arrive at
LE-SARS in the morning
at 2.30 am very bad
& sleepy during the day
The Enemy shelled this
position very heavily
We relieved the 7th Bde
at Le Sars. Putz was on
the move again on the
14th our boys kept in
touch with him. On
the 18th we moved our
HQ to a place on
Bapaume Road. No sign
of Putz our outposts
were about 5 miles other
side of Bapaume Here
the Enemy was on the move
back on a 60 kilo frontage
Traffic on Bapaume
Road was simply
marvellous heard on
the 20th that the 26th
Battalion got cut up a
bit Putz attacked in a
armored train

We left HQ at Bapaume
on 20th a place
further along the road
about one mile.
On the 21st we made
again for Bapaume
this time arriving
about 7.30 pm.
Town still burning.
Heard news of Russian
Aeroplane brought down
& the Prince captured
by the 7th Rde
Very cold & snowy
still. We were lucky
in not having
established a dug stn
in the town hall
as on the 25th
about 11.30 pm I feel
a rumble then a
explosion & the town
hall was gone
City evidently had a
mine under it some
of our Chaplains were killed
others buried.

I was sleeping in a
cellar, but after that
we had to leave
these cellars in
case they were mined
too. On the 27th
We left Bapaume
& went back to
BAZENTID. It was a
good long march
& I was sorry when
we reached our
destination. Next
day we were on the
move again arriving
at Grudge Camp at
Picourt Well there
is nothing of any
importance to relate
whilst at the camp
on April 8th Easter
Sunday I went to
Early communion
& was inoculated
in morning went to
POZIERS for walk
& view the place of

the same
until May 3rd when
we attacked Bapaume.
as you folk have
undoubtedly read about
our boys done good
work here. Outz pat
in fourteen Counter attacks
& was repelled each time
May 4th the writer's
birthday about 10pm
that night the 3rd Brigade
relieved us. Outz pat
a lot of Gas Shells
over it was on the
eve however of the morning
of the 5th that we
lie down for sleep
at BIEFVILLIERS & there
we stay in reserve.
On the 8th we were
for ALBERT & return
there. we are arriving
to FRICOURT & there we
stay until the 17th
WE are on the move

again to SENLIS but our
Stay at Senlis is very
short & sweet as next
day we are on the
march again to
RUBEMPRE.
Here we stay until
June 14th spending a
quiet rest the town is
only a small one, but
plenty of tree & green
grass & away from the
funs we quite enjoyed
ourselves on the 14th
we march to PUCHENILLIERS
for BAPAUME arriving
at 6pm & then march
to BIEFVILLIERS where
we remain in reserve
for some considerable
time. I have not
described each day's
routine as practically
they are all alike
but you all will have
some idea of my doings
& whereabouts as I have

mentioned the date of
arriving & departing from
each place.
In concluding this
little diary I will write
on I not we.

It was on July 21st
I left BIEUVILLIERS caught
a train at BAPAUME caught
from there I find myself
at BOULONNE at 7 am
next morning at 11 am
I am on my way to
BLIGHTY arriving at
FOLKESTONE at 1-30pm
leaving Folkestone about
2.30pm for LONDON
arriving at London
about 5.30pm
After getting fixed up
at HQ I had tea
at the War Chest & feeling
very bad went to bed
One day of leave fore.

- 23 London
Night Seeing
- 24 H London Night Seeing
- 25 H London Night Seeing
- 26 H ..
at 11.30pm caught train
& proceeded to GLASGOW
arriving next morning
about 10 am
- 27 Night Seeing GLASGOW
- 28 " "
- 29 " "
- 30 visited Lock London
- 31 9.15am Left Glasgow
for London Arriving
at Euston Station 7.45pm
had tea raining

Went to bed this

August 1st

Left Victoria &
Stn at 7.20 am

arrived Folkestone

9.15 am. Raining &
miserable all day

Left Folkestone at
6.30 pm rough
trip across the channel
arriving 9 pm

Left Boulogne
about midnight

Arriving St Omer
12.30 pm

Left St Omer ³¹⁶
aboard

" am per motor

transport to LUMBRES

still raining after
a stiff march found
my unit aboard 3 pm
in a small out of
the way place

Well reader I
will not mention
any more now
I have related two
years travels

& my book is nearly
full
And the 10 days
dream is over &
I have settled down
to my daily routine
duties once again
I hope dear Reader
there will not be
two years to
continue in my
nest. At the present
it looks safe for
another winter here

Worse luck. Never
mind. the last was
the worse they had
for 26 years so
we survived that
OK. with a lot of
growling at times
Please excuse the
writing & I hope you
will be able to read
this little epistle
& find a little bit of
interest in it

A few hints
A Bde is 4 Battalions
of Each Battalion =
approximately 1000 men
3 Bdes = 1 Division
a Div = 18,700 odd
men of all ranks
including
AMC ASC Sigs
etc etc

A Sig Co = about 250 men
Each Bde is supplied
with about 30 to 40 men
& the remainder are at
Div H.Q. The Sig Co

are made up of the
following daymen
Linesmen
Operators
Telephonists
Sig Clerk
Dispatch Rider
Wireless Operators
Mechanics
Drivers
Power Pumper Operators
Visual Signalling by
Lamps Flage desct
Flappers hands etc
etc

All men are classed
as Sappers other than
officers & N.C.O's

I have just mentioned
these few things in
case it may assist
you to understand more
precisely

Wishing you all
the best of luck

Yrs sincerely
Sapper ⁱⁿ France
John Larder

No 2 Section
2nd Fusilier Sig Co
ADT France