

Volume 1 Section 167-07

Caring for the Wounded

8008 Cpl Harry Wright

Introduction

Cpl Harry Wright had enlisted 28/8/05 and was serving with the 1st Battalion when war broke out. He was at home at the time and immediately set out for Aldershot. He kept a diary of events from 5/8/14 until 3/6/15. He was discharged as sick 13/6/15 and given Silver War Badge 16625.

He was married and lived at 118 Bexley Road, Northumberland Heath near Belvedere, Kent.

Diary Aboard Ship 29/9/14 to 15/10/14

He wrote up the last part of his diary when he was aboard the Hospital Ship Oxfordshire on his way back to England. It includes his latter days at La Metz Farm and these entries can be found in section 181.

October 15th 1914

A good many days have passed since I have been able to make up my diary if indeed I can call my rambling scribbles by that name. Well, I entered hospital or I should say reported sick at Moussy on the 29th of September after being in agony for about a week having lost my use of feet and legs completely on the 30 of September and nearly went mad my feet having swollen to a very unusual size owing to having my boots off for the first time after 16 days in trenches practically covered with water. I spent 3 days in the barn at Moussy and was then transferred to Brains [sic] half way by horse ambulance and the next 20 miles by motor. Stayed in Brains about 2 days then spend a day and night on the train then had two days weary and uncomfortable journey to Le Havre where I stayed in hospital up till yesterday. We are now waiting in harbour for a load so don't know where or when we are going. We know its England let that be suffice. I have already written about the time spent in the trenches but should like to keep fresh in my memory a few things that I took part in some which will be good to look back upon but which I sincerely trust I shall not be called upon to endure or undertake again. [TX00884]

Diary in England 16/8/14 to 3/6/15

He arrived at Southampton on October 16th and was conveyed by train to Liverpool for hospitalisation

Tuesday 19th [October] 1914.

Royal Southern Hospital Liverpool.

Arrived on Sunday 18th after a long railway journey from Southampton. We are mostly Londoners and are grievously disappointed as we were promised to be sent as near our homes as possible and I do believe we are as far away as from Le Havre but one must not grumble I suppose. We had a fine reception from everyone the first station we stopped at was Basingstoke not far from my old home and where my Father lies buried; here were given fruit and foodstuffs and in fact everywhere along the line people made a fuss of us. I slept most of the way the bed was so comfortable after French railways. When we got to Liverpool the whole town turned out to see us although it was nearly 12 o'clock at night. The hospital people are very kind to us and feed those that allowed it very well indeed. Poor me they have been keeping on milk for a long time now. I caught a nice cold in my stomach coming over on the boat and I am just about suffering now pains in the stomach and diarrhoea etc.

As regards the rheumatic fever I think I am going on well and I am going to ask the Doctor to let me get up for an hour.

We get no details of his treatment but the final entry is:-

Discharged as medically unfit for further war service on pension. June 3rd 1915. [TX00885]