

we had made, he wound up by saying that we had set a splendid example for other troops to follow. The military band then joined us, and we marched away to the tune of boys of the old Brigade. The whole camp turned out to see us off, and we passed through the gates of the camp, exchanging with our friends Good bye, I was glad that at last there was a possibility of our getting to the front, but I was sorry to leave such a nice place. I spent a pleasant time there, made some genuine friends, and had become very fond of the place. Somehow or other I felt about as cheerful as a lovely handkerchief, and such tunes as "Boys of the old brigade", and kept

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the home fires burning, tends to raise my spirits. I thought then how I should have felt if a hand had played us away from our camp in Sydney. I think it would have beaten me, we were catching the gaw train, and there was such a crowd on the station that we could hardly see Jim Carlton. I was very amused at some very pathetic little scene that was taking place, as we were free from this kind of thing, we could afford to enjoy the joke, but to some of the fair ones I think it was more of a drama than a comic opera, the local paper next day on our departure said "OUR FRIENDS HAVE LEFT US, AND LET US KNOW THEY WERE GOING", and also

and a few nice things about  
we landed back about our  
camp at Salisbury about 3pm  
and I immediately commenced  
to pick up the broken threads  
again, and I am sorry to say I  
found a great many changes  
had taken place, Stan Seabill  
had transferred from the 7th Brigade  
to the trench mortars, this dis-  
appoints us greatly, for when he  
leaves this camp I know how  
we will miss him, apart from the fact  
that he was at Swans, we have been  
inseparable, I suppose once we  
part here our next meeting will  
be in dear old Sydney, many other  
lads whom I had become very  
friendly with, had been transferred  
to other batteries, and Jim Carter

was away, and  
we are in a very gloomy  
mood of an early departure to the  
front were soon dashed to be gone  
there was no more signs of advance  
just than when we were here  
I got a great surprise after  
after arriving back here, Kay  
who was invalided here from the  
front, walked into my hut, he  
looked splendid, and we had a  
good yarn over old times, I have seen  
him several times since, he is  
going for France again shortly,  
I met many former friends here  
in bits and glimpses of hours  
and little we thought say  
that we want to meet  
the bit of the world, here

for some pleasant recreation when we  
all get back again.

Saturday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> 1916  
I obtained work and leave so that  
I could visit some friends of mine  
staying at Southsea, I caught the  
train from Ayrbury and arrived  
Portsmouth about 11.30, all I could  
remember of my friends address was  
111, the number of the House, but  
a passing train gave me my clue, and  
I was soon at their house, having  
spending the winter months in a  
flat at Southsea, this place is  
seaside and principal residential  
part of Portsmouth, and is a very  
nice place, they booked a room for  
me at the Grosvenor Hotel, one of the  
largest in the town, and arranged  
everything for my comfort, the hotel

agent met me, and said he  
wishes to make me comfortable, and  
received a surprise when on going  
to the booking office and ordering  
half a dozen cigars (best quality)  
and on presenting the money to pay  
for them, I was told by the proprietress  
that she was on no account to accept  
any money from me, my friends told  
me I was to be their guests entirely,  
it was a big change for me after  
the usual camp meals to sit  
down to a seven or eight course  
dinner with wines to follow, and  
for that week end I forgot  
the time that I was a soldier,  
level high; I had a good look  
around the town that night  
it proved very interesting, Portsmouth  
is the largest naval base now