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Five Year Diary

This Book is the Property of

Sgt.-Obs. H.W.A. Collett
N.Z. 412468
To N.Z. House
415 The Strand
London

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Fwx

JANUARY 1. Thursday

19 New Years Day and
still in Halifax - Have been
here now since Dec 16th.
Got home at 3.30 a.m. after
going to dance at "Y" Depot
Hall 19 our parade at 11 am
and were dismissed for
the day. Slept till 1.30
then cleaned up and
went with a N.Z. pilot,
to Sgt 19 "Ham." Hamilton's
for new years tea, arrived
4 and stayed till 12.15
played cribb and had
a jolly good time.
19 "

19

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JANUARY 2. Friday

19 Woke about 8 just
in time to dress wash and
make the parade. Were
then marched to G H Q
and went to sleep during
a 19 lecture. Stepped all
through dinner hour parade
1.15 and then went to the
gym and listened to such
a rap "Renfrew Of the R C M P"
guess 19 & good show swd.
shorts. Rumour of a draft
of 4,00 to morrow + we
hope so as it is raining
like hell now. Went to
town 19 brought this diary
tea, cheese, cigarettes
-

19
Letter from Nona - good show
table from Rosemary
Cabled Rosemary.

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JANUARY 3. Saturday

19 Usual late rising but
made Parade O.K. Were marched
to Gym. and had a talk on
the * Attention area etc. Then
saw "In old Chicago" with
Tyrone 19 Power and Alice Faye
had seen it still it passed
the time. Draft of 400 called
on 1.15 parade we waited
till 3.30 were then marched
a Arena № to see ice Hockey
and were dismissed. Went to
town with Cookie and
brought some silk stockings, Shirt.
Went to Lex, to Barracks
and then to Jubilee - Good
show. To supper and then
home

19

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JANUARY 4. Sunday

19 Did not have to be on parade until 10 so got up about 9.45. As our names were called R.A.A.F. & RNZAF chaps fell out & went up to G/3 to listen to the 19 news sheet. Arranged a game of indoor cricket for Tuesday night so it looks as though we will be in Halifax some time yet. Went to church at 11 with 19 Dunc Mac and then back to "Y" having bacon & eggs on the way. Went to bed for the afternoon. Up about 4.30 showered and felt a bit better now 19 & raining intermittently

19

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JANUARY 5. Monday

~~19~~ Up early paraded at 8.30 drafts called but we still miss - its getting uncanny Saw a show. Very little all day. Went to town with Dobe ~~19~~ Biggs (R.C.A.F.) and then to Barracks for a couple then down to Jubilee Boat club to a dance. Met Rita M. a very nice girl. Home with Phil Skinner about 1

19

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JANUARY 6.

19 On Parade in Morning Tuesday
but still no draft for us. Although
several more flights were
formed up. Saw a show in
the morning and at the 1.30
parade 19 it came at last we
were called in no 19 flight at
last. Had an F.F.I. in the
afternoon and all passed. O.K.
Mucked around all
afternoon 19, mostly sleeping
Went to meet R.M at
11.30 went home & spent some
time there finally camp at 2.

19

19

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Wednesday

JANUARY 7. Thursday.

19 8.30 parade every-
one getting sorted out, and
everything is at sixes & sevens.
Finally got fixed up at 9.30
and ~~have~~ now another number
No 15 ~~19~~ of flight 19. Dismissed
9.40 and went to barracks to
pack. Parade 1.30 some called
for pay parade, rest dismissed
till 3. Paraded again at 5 and
were paid received £5.90
and £3. English. Bought quite
a bit of canned food Sugar
and the like. Packed &
left Kit Bag on Parade
ground 19

19
Wrote to office.

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Thursday
Friday

JANUARY 8.

19 Up early and had
first breakfast at "Y" depot
paraded on parade ground at
8-15 Mucked around and
finally marched off with the mess
about 19 10. Marched right down
to wharf there waiting finally
marched on to "Scotchecden"
at 11.45 quartered on "G" deck
port side. Crowded as hell
like 19 Rats in a trap thought
we would leave that night.
Slept in hammocks as cold
as ever I've been in my life
a lot of talk about talking off
in mass but no go

19
Posted a letter to the office as I
left depot

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Friday

JANUARY 9. Saturday

19 Up & awake early as it
is cold as hell. Paraded for life-
belts - ship very cramped
chaps all over the show.
Pulled out into the harbour
about 19 midday. Snowing and
very cold and wet. Dinner
fair enough considering we are
on a troop-ship and would
be O.K if the boys would
pull 19 to-gether. To bed with
more blankets and had a
good nights sleep.

19

19

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JANUARY 10. Sat

19 Up about 10. Went
up top and we pulled
out about midday passing
through the net and passed
several corvettes Had first
boat 19 drill which was
a farce as there was no
nominal role or any
organization at all Received
50 Cigarettes and it all helps
19 From now on it will be
the usual dull monotony of
sea travel (I hope!)

19

19

19

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JANUARY 11. Sunday

19 Slept in till 10 and
then got dressed and went up
on deck – the old crate
rolling + pitching pretty good.
Inspection by C.O. + M.O. but
19 they can't do much with
our quarters or general
conditions. Went up to
Sgts. room for a couple
of drinks with Lee (R.A.F.) up
19 again in afternoon with
Skinny a mac. Up to Canteen
at night and won $2
at Crown and Anchor back
and to bed about 10.

19

19

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JANUARY 12. Mon

19

19 Up at 7 early for a change and on deck / by 8 Sea rough very calm Land only a slight roll Chaps still sick - but so far no Classes of N Z's. Chaps had darn good clean up in our quarters, Scrubbed the floors and it looks a lot better. Played Crown Anchor and won 8/- Lost 3

19

19

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JANUARY 13.

19 Dinner. breakfast and Tues
all meals now working ~~under~~
pretty good and the place is
a lot cleaner. Spent quite a
bit of time on deck, as
it is 19 nice & smooth and
surprisingly enough its
pretty warm I think we
must be well South. Had
a couple of goes at Crown
& and 19 for 8/4 in. afternoon
but ditched them again
after tea. Lot of row and
fun after. Read all about
1 and when I finally got
to sleep
19

19

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JANUARY 14. Wed

19 Missed breakfast as was jolly tired, slept till about 8 when I got up and went up on deck to get some fresh air. wind is riding and sea getting choppy.

12 Noon sea running high and wind a howling gale increasing all the time. Played a bit of bowls & the usual 19 up & down. plenty of all kinds of money changing hands, bought 2 lots of rob Craven "A" The ship rocking and rolling the worst yet but nobody down yet So here's hoping

19

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JANUARY 15. Thurs.

19

Sea still running high and
the wind is almost at gale force.
Water in our section and it made
a hell 19 of a mess. Sixth day out
and as expected rumour running
wild as to day of arrival, its
marvellous how these things get
around The destroyers are pitching
Some 19 awful & would hate
to be aboard. Felt a little
groggy so went to bed early
but could not get to sleep
lost a life-boat to day & when
we 19 broke there was water
kit bags, broken dishes and
rubbish galore rolling round the
floor. Cleared up ship left but packed
us up again about 4.

19

Rough!!

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JANUARY 16. Friday

19 7 days out to morrow at
noon. Sea has calmed down t
only a fair swell now sky is
clearer and the wind has
dropped. Rumour as usual is
hard 19 at work and the latest
has us landing at Liverpool on
Sunday - We'll see! My
turn at getting the meals to-day
food still pretty crook eatable
and 19 that's about all no
breakfast. Orders in D.R.O. to
sleep with clothes on at last
the war is here. We had an
air-raid alarm at 10 & boat
warning at 10.30 The O.C
Troops came around Our
Offcr acted in such a manner
to heighten that "Blasted Pommy"
idea!

19
Wrote to home
" " Kay

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JANUARY 17. Sat

19 The whole gang slept in till 9.15 consequently nobody had breakfast this morning. A 8/0 and F/Sgt came down & pull us out but they had two shows

19 Sea smooth and wind practically nil, the four ships still in same formation. Talk of ~~enemy~~ a plane escort coming out but Dame Rumour is still

19 tops. We should see land to morrow, it is hard to know what direction we are going as we are altering course often & sky is still overcast

19.

Went up on deck about 2 am (Sun) & seen two lights

19 Wrote to Nona

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JANUARY 18. Sun

19 Up about 9 missed break-
fast as per usual. Up on deck
and Land ahoy! what a welcome
sight, expect we'll dock Sunday
now. We are sailing north so expect
the 19 coast line is Wales. Up
along the coast all day. 6 "Hunys"
came out in the morning and
watched for a while. Sea calm
and no wind. Only destroyer
now. 19 but suppose we are
pretty safe. Had a medical parade
by the M.O at 8 o'clock all our
gang O.K. Packed all my
gear and am all ready now

19

19 Wrote 11 pages to date.

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JANUARY 19.

19 Mon

Land at Last! Evidently the coast of Wales! We had the job of cleaning up, made a good job at least its cleaner even when we had. Sailed up the Clyde 19 and berthed about 3. Ships everywhere, air balloons for the Balloon Barrage. It is cold & Snowing fairly hard. Disembarked about 9.10. Wait to train 19 - left at about 9.40 First good home-like food, meat pies & cocoa for supper Played cards but found it hard to get to sleep after, four of 19 us in four seats

19

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JANUARY 20.

19 Tues

Saw the dawn break passing through heavily populated "Black" district. Mines and crowded houses all along the line, Wellingham Yorks Southampton towns every few 19 miles big towns too !

Not much to do & See all day. Meals we had were all O.K and R.A.F chaps serving were all O.K - good chaps 19 serving good food despite the rationing.

Arrived Bournemouth about 9.20 Stepped on to platform black as pitch. Were taken in buses 19 to dinner and then to lodgings at Sea Lodge rooming with Harvey, Ferd & Curly.

Country-side covered in snow

19 right from Glasgow to Bournemouth

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JANUARY 21.

Wed

19 Up & on parade
in time for 9.45 check up.
Were dismissed and wandered
about trying to look at the
sights. It is very nice place
19 and would like to see it
in the Summer time. Paraded
again at 2 pm. Last were
dismissed after roll call. Went down
to Lady Lydeh's filled in a form and
19 Lad nick afternoon tea. Back to
tea and went to have a couple at
Prince of Wales. Then Cpl. Skh. Ford
Harvey & I went to Bobbys for Supper
but arrived too late!
19 Home Safe siren in
blackout

19

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JANUARY 22.

Thurs

19 Called at 8 but did not
get up until 8.30. Just in time
for 9 parade. Were marched down
to Rochdale for particulars for 1250 -
identification card. Were dismissed
19 after 2 pm parade so went down
town took a bus & went out to
Fishermans Walk, Walk & to bea.
Went to P of W and
then went to Kirk for a
19 dance. Nice place, nice
floor & English girls are good
sports (first opinion) met
a nice girl but took another
home. Luckily she lived
19 behind the NAAFI so it was not
far out of my Way - Made
date for Sat. 2 pm.

mail

19 Posted mum, Clare, Nona, Kay
Cabled Home.

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7

JANUARY 23. Fri

19 Were wokken up at
7 but did not get up until
8.15. Round to Parade, were
dismissed and went down town
and walked around the shops.

19 After 2 pm parade we
went to a lecture by a N.Z.
Fl/Lt. on pay, posting etc.
Not much chance evidently.

19

Rainy as anything so
bit fire + Stayed in for the
night

19

19

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JANUARY 24.

Sat

19 After 9 parade we were paraded for stores We are evidently going to be issued with shirts socks and the like. Were dismissed after that so went 19 down town to have a meal came back and went to the NAAFI. Collected after and went to a picture show at the Regent Back & to the

19 Down to "Apples & Pears" & then to Kinks, where danced till ten.

19

19

19

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JANUARY 25.

19 Slept in a missed parade
hurried round but were too late
came back and cleaned up.
W.O. was round but let us off
Curly & I went around and
walked along the beach to
the Hippodrome and got a
bus to the Square. Went around
to the flat with G.T and
then went around to
the dance at the Y.M.C.A
19 sing song and

Home 10.30

19 Good Show

19

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JANUARY 26.

Mon

19 Up for parade - nothing doing so were dismissed. Took washing up to the "C.K." laundry in Boscombe, back Wednesday I hope. Had tea at a little place and it was rather good too!!

19

After noon Parade went back to sea Lodge and slept till late missed tea and got up about 7 and went to Pavilion Nice place & nice dance

19

19

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JANUARY 27. Tues.

19 Dismissed after
8.45 parade. Feeling rather
seedy went for a ride out
in the country - it was O.K
cows, green paddocks, even
the good old blackberry. Came
back and it was raining
so went to the N.A.A.F.I. for tea
Still feeling crook so went to
bed coughing like an old
Model 19 "T" In bed all
after noon + all night

19

19

JANUARY 28. Wed

19 Very little all day.

Went to Pavilion with Curl. Sid
Giff and had a good time

19 Went & saw "Hold that Ghost"
a darn good show

19

19

19

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JANUARY 29. Thursday

19 Were given the rest of our gear, flying suit helmet etc! Have now got quite a lot; 3 kit bags and a small suit cake.

19 Went to the Hippodrome and saw a dud show. Had my thoughts read & the woman ~~flew~~ said I would meet them inside of 4 months. ~~+~~ receive from.

19 Bullswood

Home to Tea & Chips

& Supper.

19

19

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JANUARY 30. Friday

19 Up for parade and
then went down to "Rochdale"
for identification cards &
leave passes. — got mine O.K
Down town for meal. To
Beale 19 restaurant for after
noon tea & good show good
music. Went to Plaz.
with Curt Brad & Co &
met 19 a nurse who is a
damned good sort! A
nurse, she lives at Boscombe
Some where about 1.

19

19

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JANUARY 31. Sat.

19 Curly Bunny & I played football v Army Tank Corps we won 17/0 I scored once

19 Curl & I went back to N.A.A.F.I. for tea with team then to Pavilion beer women out to Boscombe & Home about 1.

19

19

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FEBRUARY 1.

19 Left from Bournemouth
west Stn for London
Arrived in the
middle of a snow fall
snow Ice, slush everywhere
19 could not get
accomodation for a long
while finally found the
allied Services Club -
a real hole - stayed
one night
19

19

19

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FEBRUARY 2. Mon

19 Changed lodging to Victoria League a very nice place. Got N.Z. house and got one letter from Rosemary dated July 29

19 also got cigarettes & Xmas Comforts parcels

Still Snow Ice + Cold

19

19

19

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FEBRUARY 3.

19

Red nearly all morning

19

19

Saw Gordon Starker in

"Warn that Man".

19

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FEBRUARY 4. Wednes

19

Wandering around
London

19

and not very Impressed
by its age.

19

Saw Show at Hippiodrome

19

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FEBRUARY 5.

19

Thurs

Went to "Phoenix" Vaudeville
show on tickets from N Z Club

19

19

19

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decide
NZ Club

FEBRUARY 6. Fri

19 Last day of stay at
Victoria League. Went to
Kings Cross to get sleeper at 2
to picture till 4 - got
Sleeper - Back to NZ Forces
Club. 19 Met Bunny Warren and
were given tickets to Phoenix
vaudeville show. From there to
Kings Cross where had a
sleeper with Major - Petty
Officer 19 + AC1.

Left 10.15.

FRIDAY

→ In 8.30 to Edenburgh, left 10.27 at
Leuchars 19 at 12.30. met Chum
and the boys. Long talk
and yarn.

Left on Godfrey's b

19

Was taken to a crap Gallon
done in Edinburgh for O'Kee

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FEBRUARY 7. Sat

19 In about 8.30 met
George Gallon and he took me
out to his place for breakfast.
Missed first /

19 Slept in till ten
at Cuchars RAF station.
Had all my meals in the
mess. Check & I started by
bus to go to Dundee but I
19 broke down So went by
train only a 15 mins run.
Have now passed over Forth & Tay
Bridges. Had a meal & went
to a show in Dundee - quite fair
19 had a sleeper on a through
train which I caught at 7.45

19

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FEBRUARY 8. Sun

19 Very good trip. Awoke
feeling very fit. Arrived in
London at Kings Cross
Station about 8.00. Took
Underground to Waterloo.
where 19 I caught a train
to Bournemouth which left at
8.37. Arrived Bournemouth
about 12.30 so checked in
at Rocndale and went
round 19 to Sea Lodge. Went
to "Westover" pictures show
in afternoon Jacs show
all the boys except Giff
home that night

19

19

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FEBRUARY 9.

Mon

19 Up at 8 and went
on Sick. parade. Waited
until 11.15 utterly fed up
and only the usual aspirin

19 Went to the "Wastover"
Cinema in afternoon after
having gone to M.O. for
second dose

19 Brought tickets for
Vivien Leigh's show for to-morrow

19

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FEBRUARY 10. Tues.

19 Up 7.45 and walked down to the Hospital from there we walked along the beach to Boscombe where we had dinner, caught a bus back, Shaved and went down to Hosp & then to "Doctor's dilema" with Vivien Leigh good show with Shaw's weak ending very noticable. 19 19 To Bobby's NAAFI & home

19

19

WIRED HOME

"Saw Chum Seeing Muriel All Well Bill Collett.

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FEBRUARY 11. Wed.

19 Up 7.45 and down
to M.O. where had usual. Took
a walk out to Boscombe along
the sea shore, morning tea
at Melhuish's. Then went on
to 19 Burns at Ch'Ch. Back
to Sea Lodge & mucked about
till 2 went down & took
medicine. Out to Windbourne
afternoon tea & then home.

19 In WAHFI to write

19

19

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FEBRUARY 12. Thurs

19 Missed parade by
going to M.O. for gargle. Walked
along Sea front to Boscombe &
out to Shrublands for our daily dozen. Caught a bus
sat in 19 Sibn amongst the ruins
had dinner out there & then
came back. Went to Palais de
Dance at Boscombe and met
a very nice (?) young girl
19 she lived away out in the
cactus and took a long
while to get her home.

Good Night

19

19

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FEBRUARY 13.

19 Friday

R.A.F. Officers there was nothing
doing except the announcement
of a fancy parade at 1.45. Lo
Mellen's along the beach
with 19 Jeff at 10.30.
Afternoon parade biggest
ever received & which is not
over. Went to Pavilion and met
many had a good reunion
and 19 a rather wild night.

Stone 11.30.

19

19

Received Xmas

FEBRUARY 14. Sat

19 Parade but as usual
nothing doing We went around
the beach to Boscombe and
then to "Mel's" where toast
and crumpets made a good
19 morning tea To tea dinner
but to Parade and then out to
football with Curly and Stumpy
Gift We beat the Army 6-3
19½ played half & felt as much
at home 19 as at Jew's Picnic to WHITE for
tea & then to Pavilion met
Ginger and had a gay time - Dee
drink make you see things
through 19½ tinted glasses

19

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FEBRUARY 15. Sun

19 Up late cause Parade
at 9.15. Some postings but still
no observers - not been any good
old Air Force Rumours. Caught
a bus out to Swanage. Lovely
19 trip but we couldn't
get any lunch so came back
on the 2.10 bus & lunched
back in Bournemouth. Met
Ginger at the Devon went to
19 pictures at the Regent then
to Henris for supper then
to old Pavilion where we
downed quite a bit

19

19

Singapore Fallen

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FEBRUARY 16. Mon

19 Up late but caught
parade only there was nothing
doing. Dismissed and went
back to Sea Lodge to collect
19 washing & take my No. 1 to
be cleaned up a bit
look ~~was~~ to Boscombe and left
my washing at the "C.K." and
went at the place up from
the "Hippo." Had morning tea
at 19 Melchinski's back there
for Dinner. Then to picture
show at "Savoy" - back to
NAAFI for ~~London~~ tea - Then
to S.L. and to talk &
bed.
19

19

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19 Tues.

Called Irvine up
finally about 7-45. On
to parade but after roll
call went down with Cpl
to town. Met Curt + out to
19 Mels. Back there for
dinner. Had hit hospital
in afternoon. Went for
last ride with Curt + Ham
Cold + damp day. No
19 mail for us. Learn to
picture show at Wasa
Pvt

19

19

Posted letter to Mum

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FEBRUARY 18. Wednesday

19 Up O.K and was late for parade. They are lightening up. Divided us into Squads & he left marched the whole lot to Sea Cliffe where we had

19 Grip & Regent Theatre inspection & went to the for a lecture on Balloon Barrages. Had dinner at Metropoles & back to Parade were marched up & P.T. & Signals. Went to

19 "Central" and then to "P de D" met Peg home I am — Wow! Walking not so hot!

19

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19 Thurs.

Went on to Parade marshalled up and observers & RCs were advised of a shift to Metropole. Went out to Boscombe for morning tea. Back packed and round at Rochdale. and were marched to Hotel Metropole in Lansdowne. Good show warmer meals on premises Went to "Reluctant Dragon" at the Regent — good show. To Bed early.

19

19

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FEBRUARY 20. Friday

19 Parade at 8.45
marched to Hotel Majestic
and had a roll call were
then dismissed and went out
to Boscombe for our littlest snack
Wolk 19 h Alan McLeod + Clare
over at the Queen's. Did not
do much At dinner time Sid
Armory brought my mail which
had been sent down from London
Went 19 to Central till 7.30 and
then around to the Pavilion where
I met Pat in the A.T.S. Good time
rather happy

19
Mail from Clare, Barb. J. M., Ray,
Rosemary, Mat, Gwen, R. S. & A.
Uncle Tom & Alan McLeod

19

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FEBRUARY 21.

19 Sat

Up in time for the 8.45 parade. Nothing doing and were dismissed. Went out for eats crumpets and back to Hotel Metropole for lunch. Went to the ~~19~~ Electric theatre & saw "Santa Fe Trail". During the show there was an air raid alarm but nobody moved, the "all clear" was sounded about 20 mins ~~19~~ later. Went to Mrs Jackley's at San Remo & had a good meal, with N.Z. butter too! home about 1-15.

19

19

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FEBRUARY 22. Sun

19 Slept in till 9.20 and were rudely awakened by Skin who wished to tell me that Pat would ring at 11, I could have killed him. Up & had a good ~~19~~ dinner. Wrote to Rosemary and then went to "Footsteps in the dark" with Errol Flynn good show. Back to "Met" and had tea. Went up & ~~11~~ AT I and had ~~19~~ tea met Carl Stamp & C back & Met' hat both & tea'd.

19

19

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19

Mon

Up in time for parade but as about 15 RAF chaps were posted were walked off with them so missed any possible lectures. Joe dismissed us. Went out ~~19~~ to Melhuish's for morning tea.

In the afternoon we pushed off again! very uneventful day

19

19

19

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FEBRUARY 24. Tues

19 On parade but as
usual the same old thing —
nipped away on a Boscombe
bus and had our crumpets
A.P.U. went and saw a
19 coupla of fair shows one with
the Dead End Kids in out
at Boscombe. supper at the
Queens and home for an
early night
19

19

19

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FEBRUARY 25. Wed

19 Had another roll made
out - about the third. Went
to bed stiff but as there was
nobody about we went for
a route march of 200 yds
and then nipped out to
morning tea which is taking
the place of breakfast.
19 Went to Don Brown's
School days" and "Slave Ship" at
Boscombe - home & to bed early.
19

19

19

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FEBRUARY 26. Thurs

19 Up - on 8.45 parade
the rumour of leave looks O.K. now,
only hope it comes true, well
anyway tomorrow anyway.
Jac marched us off after
19 the parade and we went out
for morning tea. Came back and
went for a swim in the
tepid baths at the "Hydro" with
the Skin - water good but I am
not 19 it.
I met Pat G. outside
the "Metropole" at 6.20 and
went to the Pavilion Supper
at the Regent Theatre
19

19

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FEBRUARY 27.

19 Up early and down
to parade everyone ready to go. Were
marched to B. West but everyone
got sick of walking so we caught
a bus. Before we went we were
19
paraded at Meyrick court and
were paid £1. Having received
warrant to Dundee & Leave pass
I nipped back and drew my
money from Lloyds got my
19
washing from C.K. and went
to "affectionately yours" at the
Electric
So "Bettys" for Supper after

19

19
Received £11
Letter from Ted Jackson
Cable from Home

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Sat Fri

Dress

FEBRUARY 28.

19 Up bathed packed and ready to go at 10:30

19

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

FEBRUARY 29. Sun Sat.

19 "Jerdy" & I slept on
and I got up about 9. Washed
packed & left about 10.30
Dropped my boots in to get
the heels filled in Missed
the train by about 2 mins so
took a taxi to the station at
Central & caught the train. Arrived
in London about 2.30 and
went to the N.Z. forces club for
tea. Then went to see "Captains
of the Sky" in Leicester Sq. — good!
Then to Kings X and my
sleeper to Leuchars.

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 1.

Mon Sun

19 Arrived in Edinburgh
about 8 a.m and the Dundee
train left about 11.25 So had
3 hours to wait. I could not get
anything to eat So it was not so
bad. 19 Finally got on the train
and all it wd be a lovely day I
had a pleasant trip through
Scotland. Arrived at Leuchars and
found Chum O.K. There was
a dance at the station So
we went it was a good show
and I had a good time. Slept
with Chum Buck, - Sleep
in Sandy's bed

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 2.

Mon

19 Slept in till 10.20 and then got up washed and went over to the hangar watching Hudson's Mosquitos, Blenheims & Beaufort's muck about 19 went in to Dundee with Chum & collected his photographs. Back and we adjoined to the mess where we celebrated 489's transfer 19 a lot of trouble including a goal break with "Sweat" as the Star. Cut Buck's cake with a lot of Tradition Then cut MacPherson's throat a hell 19 of a lot of fun Whist was broken up by the appearance of 4 services P.S. Slept in Jones's bed.

19 Good Night

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 3. Tues

19 Up at 9 and went
to the observers crew-room
where proceedings were livened
up by some of the chaps selling
off flares & rockets. I said
19 cheerio to Chum and went
in to Dundee; had after-
noon tea and then went
to "Blossom's in the dust"
Caught the 8.37
arrived 19 Had good company
in my sleeper - 2 capts called
on L. A. C

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 4.

19 Wed

Arrived in London about 9.30. Went to P.O in Agar St (off Strand) and changed some of the boys addresses to Thorney Island 19 & N.Z. forces club for dinner. Caught the Bristol train by the skin of my teeth. Arrived in Bristol (worst bombing I've seen 19 yet) and booked in at the Hotel Chume Suggested but couldn't get her, So went to the pictures. Found my 19 way home among the ruins

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 5. Thurs

19 Tried again to get
Muriel and succeeded.
We arranged to meet at
the hospital at 2 p.m.
Went out and wandered all
19 around the place but couldn't
find her was finally taken
in tow by a young nurse
and finally we had our
happy reunion. We went
19 to a place for afternoon tea
and talked for 3 hours Solid.
Then I got a taxi and took
Muriel back to the hotel
and collected my silk
19 stockings, & 400 cigarettes
also my N.Z. handkerchiefs.
Went to a picture show
& back to hotel

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 6.

19 Friday

Up 7 washed bod went down to breakfast. Paid my bill of £1:4:0 and went down to Catch the 8.12 for Bournemouth. Was supposed to change at Salisbury but got "balled" up and went to Southampton. Met a nice WAAF which made the trip shorter. Went back on the train with Russ. 19 at 3. A letter from P.G. waiting so went to the Tav quite a good night when all Said & done.

19

19

MARCH 7. Sat.

19

19

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19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 12.

19 Thurs

Usual rise shine and parade. Lecture then we were supposed to have P.T. but went to morning tea. Drill but were dismissed so nipped off and had a game of Snooker. Hockey all afternoon

19 Home early to write this up.

19 Bed Early.

19

19

19 Letters from Dick Harwood
Auntie Kate
Alan McLeod
Enclosing Dad's letter

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 16.

19 Mon

Parade and to
East Cliffe attended
lecture Band mooched off to
Boscombe for morning tea
had a game of snooker at
the 19 Hydro. Tol dinner
Air-craft Rec. and then
down to "Betty's" for afternoon
tea. Had tea and went
out 19 for a game of billiards
then back to bed

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 17. Tues

19 Went to Lectures
at East Cliffe, Intelligence
Lectures very good. Usual
Morning talk & Boscombe
Went to tea & Cash told me
George 19 Nelson had arrived So
popped down to see him. Went
to pavilion Met Audrey et
Dance and had a good
night.

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 18. Wed

19 Dodged lectures all morning on pretext of drawing football kit. Had a good meal and went to football at 3 o'clock.

19 Raining like the very dickens but finally got on to the field about 3.45 "Baldy" MacAlpine Refered We won a muddy scramble by 6-3. Celebrated at the Salisbury at Boscombe Took Barbara home it was 1.30 before I bedded down

19

Mail From:

Ray Addis

19 Clare Hawke.

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 19. Thurs

19 On parade and what
a shock posted! Whacko.
We are posted to a place
called Millom. Mucked about
all day - tea at Melhuish's
and ~~19~~ I met Audrey at the
Carlton Hotel at 6.5 walked
down the sea-shore to the
Regent theatre; had tea and
in to See "Sun Valley Serenade"
good ~~19~~ show - Supper at the
"Kenyon - Swiss and then home

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 20. Friday

19 Had my three bags packed and down in the hall at 9. Paraded and had an F.F.I all our gang O.K then to dinner.

~~19~~ Paraded at 2 o'clock with our bags started a march to the Station but hopified a bus. Arrived in London about 7, went to N.Z. Forces 19 club and then to the Old Sussex in to Tartan Duo Very Happy but caught the 10.15 at Euston!. They had no accomodation slept anywhere and ~~19~~ everywhere

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 21. Sat

19 After one hell of a trip we landed at Rhillon about 7.15. Were taken in truck out to the airport which is about 2 ½ miles from the town 19 which looks very Scruffy.

They had a good breakfast for us and it was well appreciated. Were then taken to the hospital and read 19 another F.F.Y. Went to bed very early as I was jolly tired

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 22.

19 Sun

No Sun. off here it's going to be a 7 day week.
Ouch to the class room where we had a talk by F/Sgt Sudong our instructor. He let us go in the afternoon so we had a clean up of kit and another early night.
19 had my first flight. flew out over the High Sea
19 past the Isle of Man
spotted a rock and I took a couple of photos with the F24.

19

19

Time of trip = 3.20

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 23. Mon

19 Up & on parade and got a bit of a shock when we had an inspection by a Group Captain who is D.O. Usual lectures and not a 19 hell of a lot to do. Played bulliards at night and went to bed.

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 24.

19 Tues.

drill On parade, inspection
we had lectures a. p. v
ed & Worried went in to town with
looks 19 to the Pell which
us rendezvous as though it would be
re here. while we
Just caught the
last bus home.

19

19

19

19

Posted letter to Chum.

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 25. Wed.

19 Parade Inspection
& were marched to class
room. Lousy lectures all
day & made to feed
for flight at 4.15 to-morrow
morning.

19

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 26.

Thurs

19 Was called at 3.15 am.
Had breakfast and went to breakfast
Over to ops. room for briefing and
then found that they didn't
19 want us, so back to bed.
Woke about 8 and
decided to go to Barrow with Sid
Stamp & Co. Missed first train.
So lunched in Millom and
then ~~19~~ went ~~to~~ at 1.15. Good
time in Barrow back to the
Peck & then to the dance
Home 1.30.

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 27. Fri.

19 Up & on parade marched round and down to class room. Had armament lectures all morning on bombing vectoring & the like

19 Taken to plotting room and generally were shown all round the place. Saw a Both a Gypsy Major, "Henry", Spit Lysander & a lot of diff. other types

19 ~~19~~ Kicked a football around for a while and then had a shower & to bed.

19

19 Letter from Nora
Parcel from home
Pullover

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 28. Sat.

19 On Parade and had usual inspection and drill. Flew in the afternoon to Isle of Man, Mull of Galloway Whitehaven. Took plenty of photographs, dive-bombed and had plenty of low hedge-hopping.

19 Home about 7.20 no tea so went in to the "Peel" 19 - good night home on 10.20 Bus.

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 29. Sun

19 Up early and
went to parade and then
the usual lectures. Had
a game of snooker and
went to bed early

19 Reported sick with
a dirty cold.

19

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MARCH 30. Mon

19 On sick parade
at 8 and then went to
lectures. Flew with Jack
Shephard, & Sid Amody & Checken
Rock, Mull of Galloway, bombed
19 Lock — a/c
Lock — a/c
Lock — a/c

MARCH 31. Tues

19 Had first prep in D.R. Trainer which to my mind is a jolly good thing. Great Day Mail from Home.

19

19

19

19

Received Mail
Clare, Shirley, Rosemary, Nola Lexford
Max.

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 1.

19 Wed

Our day off. And what a day. Were hurried out of bed at 3.15 am then to mess where they had no ~~meals~~ breakfast for us. To operation's room where we found that the other crates wouldn't be in till 6.40. Finally finished up no flying at all. Played snooker all morning and went in to the "Peel" at night

19

Played Station Team with the Aussies and lost 6—3 I scored over try

19

19

Received Mail Christy, Rasmussen, Tudor, Wyard, Mary

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 2.

Thurs

19 Lectures on and off
all day flying that was off &
have been was scrubbed as
the weather has been particularly
foul lately. To bed about 8.

19

19

19

Received Parcel
from school

19

IBCC Digital Archive

Good Friday

APRIL 3. Friday

19 Good Friday — Not
that you'd notice it, no
church services or anything not
even a hot cross bun! Went
down to "A" dispersal for
"P. T." 19 in the morning. More
N. Z. Mail still trickling in. Knocked
off early and went to sick-parade
then to tea and hitched into
Millom where we saw "Andy
Hardy's 19 Private Secretary" and be
then to "Peel" and home.

19
Newspapers from Gwen & Jane

19
Received £9:2:0

IBCC Digital Archive

Easter Sat.

APRIL 4. Saturday

19 Easter Saturday

last year april 12th - I went into camp in Levin, N.Z.

On to sick parade and then to class-room. We did ~~19~~ our first practical compass swing with F/Sgt Beattie who is one of the Best.!

19

~~19~~

~~19~~

19

IBCC Digital Archive

Sun

19 Went down to the
sick bay and got off my
sick parades.
On the range with
the V.G.O. all morning fired
100 rounds ~~19~~ and went back to
the Armoury and had to fill
5 magazides. Had lectures on
the bombing panel of the
Wimpey & switches & lights
every ~~19~~ where
Had to Parade at
6.-30 first for the pleasure of
fall/25 Cotton — Boo! to him.
First day with the
clocks ~~19~~ on the extra hour.

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 6. Mon

19 Slept in until 8.15 as I didn't fly then over to the class-room. Bothe morning details scrubbed. We had to calibrate a D/F loop in the rain and to say the least it was bally wet. Finished the job O.K. and was in for dinner about 12.20.

Nothing to do in the afternoon so had early tea at 3.30 and then the darn flight was scrubbed.

To bed about 12.

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 7. Tues.

19 Up over to Class room
there was no parade. Had lectures
in the morning and in the
afternoon we were allowed to go
off which we did. Had a couple
of rounds of sleep and then went in
to town with Mack & Mac & Sid
had tea at Y.M.C.A. and then
went on to "up Parallel" which was
not a bad show. Then to the "Peel"
quite 10 a good night, home on
to bed.

19

19

Sent Cable to W.O.H.S. - Head Prefect.

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 8. Wednes.

19 Pulled out at 12.45 and
over to the ops. room at 1.15 - no
breakfast. Flew with Les Winslow and
we had quite a trip. Started off
in good weather but after ½ an hours
flight we 19 stud dirty weather and it really
was foul, bumpy, rain, snow &
ice lower 2500. We set course from
home 19 for home and then the
fun started - had to get QDM's but
finally 19 got home O.K. Went in to
Barrow at 11.30, tried to get my photo
taken but no go, went to a picture
"Kathleen" with Shirley Temple-not bad.
Tea & home on 6.15 & millom
Down to 19 "feel" with Les Tunstall home
to camp on 10.15.

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 9.

Thurs

19 Slept in until 7.30 up
and in time for 8 o'clock parade
I could have had another ½ hour
as the parade was called off.
Were on the fraser, Nash
Sunset 19 all morning and
in the Bomb. Alley room all
afternoon mainly on flares &
their method of release

19

19

19 Wrote to Clare, Mured Clark

APRIL 10.

Fri

19 Had to be in the Plotting
ice at 7.15 so it was hard to get
at 6.30 Ken McKenzie + I went
for a weather test — it was
so we went on bombing. Weather
19 but very high wind which made
mbing very difficult. Dropped 2
nbs + then came home as target
s C/S. Went in to the A.M.B.T.
d tried finpointing on a
h of the 19 the Kuhr Valley.
Wrote letter to home after
+ then to bed

19

19 Received air mail from
x dated Feb. 25th,
ail posted to Mam, Claver Mercd

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 11. Sat.

19 Up at 6.30 and in to breakfast then over to the ops room but it was scrubbed as was the 1.15 detail. We just waited for flying all morning and played billiards. Had 19 skating in afternoon till 4.30 when we stopped away.

Went for a 6 miles walk came back and had supper and boiled some eggs in the barracks.

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 12.

Sun

19 On to parade but there
was not even a church parade
ornament all day. Played
billiards in afternoon as after
the boys were briefed we had
the afternoon off. All the
boys were flying. So I went
& fed early.

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 13.

Mon

19 Up at 6.20 and got ready to go to Barrow. Breakfast at 8 we had mushrooms + bacon, not Dunc. Mac and he Suggested going to Coniston. We walked into Millom and caught the train to Coniston. We walked from Coniston nearly to Ambleside a distance of 8 miles + it was through some of the most rugged country, lakes everywhere. Ambleside is on Lake Windermere a very pretty spot. We rowed, lakes and went to Windemere then across the Lake on the ferry and climbed the hill + down to Waterhead - here to Ambleside + afternoon tea. Came back to the "Peel" and celebrated our 1st anniversary as a Course although now we have only 13 out of 42. Good day and I am getting a better opinion of the England as a country but not the people.

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 14. Tues.

19 On parade and had drill and then went to lectures. Armament all day. A big row in the mess because the WAAF's had orders not to wait on us ~~19~~ the whole mess refused to eat the meals + So 250 meals went west. Quite a racket and we sent a representative to the mess treasurer, I think it will all come out O.K. Down in the 19 shadowgraphs room and then to barracks for Kit-inspection by Flt. Gardner.

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 15.

Wed

19 Up for breakfast and
it is vastly improved. On parade
and over to the classroom where
we mucked about pretty near all
day, waiting to fly. All details
were 19 scrubbed and we had
to hang round the ops room. Tried
to have some clay-pigeon shooting
but the turret dos. d/s. When
the last detail was scrubbed
Dunc. 19 MacAlpine, Harvey Flower,
Phil Skinner & I went in to drown
our disgust in the "Peel" - which
we did. Went to the dance home
about 12.

19

19 Posted mail to. Max.

Opened a bank account
with £10 at Mellon's Post office

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 16. Thurs

19 We were on armament
all day. Went down to the 400
yard range firing from Bolton-Paul
Fraser-Nash & Daimler turrets; good
time marvellous weather. In after-
noon ~~19~~ we went to Spot. light and
knocked off early.

Uneventful.

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 17.

Friday

19 Up early and on parade. Here we got a real talking too because some chaps are not turning up at the plotting office at 7.15. Went on a route march. ~~19~~ Pay parade at 12.30 and got over battle-dress in the morning. Briefed for our flights to-night & then dismissed for the afternoon. Played snooker

19

19

19

Posted Mail to Shirley Todd - P.S.C.

Receiwed £9:2:0

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 18. Sat

19 Pulled out at ½ 3.15 am and over to the ops room to fly. Flew as first navigator to Harrogate, Dumfries Isle of Man. Landed after a good trip we left at night and saw sunrise ~~19~~ landed about 7.30. Changed and caught the 8 o'clock bus to Millom where I met Duncan Mac and went to Coniston and caught a ride to Amblesside. Hired bikes and ~~19~~ rode to Grasmere & Rydal Water saw Wordsworth's grave & house, back to dinner and then got a rowing boat and went across the Lake to Windermere and saw an old castle. ~~19~~ Back & have a look at the Waterfall and afternoon tea Home after a very happy day.

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 19.

Sun

19 On parade and we had a route march round the camp, back and were dismissed and went to the class-room.

Armament all day.

Down ~~19~~ on the 25yd range. Fired 100 rounds out of a Browning into the Sand. On the bomb teacher and barrels all afternoon.

Very quiet day

~~19~~

~~19~~ 19

~~19~~ 19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 20.

Mon

19 Armament and
not a hell of a lot to do.
Went in to pictures
ok night and it was really
quite a good show, then went
with Sid Armory down to
19 the "John Reel" where we celebrated
the departure of the Aussies
They wrecked the canteen and
I think will get a good rap
19 Well see.
Home with Rhod Shen.

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

19 **APRIL 21.** Lues

In the D.R. Lounes in the morning I was pilot & Phil Skinner navigator. We had the after-noon off. Wandered down to the plotting office and went 19 up for a look with Fedutchyk: came down & went to the Ops room at 10.15 but I was washed-out so to bed

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 22.

Wed

19 Up & in the plotting
office at 7.0.5. Flew with Sgt Mundy
on Duddon target - error 9 2 yds
at 10,000 yds. One more trip
before dinner with Sgt. Colbright
19
good trip, one direct hit & abt
error was 85 yds at 10,000 ft. Late
lunch and one more trip
with Sgt Cart. again about 6.30
dropped my eggs on Duddon
19
again and I had an average
of 117 yds at 10,000' Down and
to bed

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 23.

19 Woke up at 8 o'clock and was met by a F. lt. who was rather annoyed because we were not on this parade. Finally arrived in the class room about 8.40.

19 Did a pilot in the morning and hopped away in the afternoon. Flew about 5 out to Isle of man but vis less than mille heavy rain back 19about 6.30 and went for a game of snooker

19

19

APRIL 24.

Fri

19 Up early to atone for
yesterday's effort On parade we
did some good marching for
a change as it was so cold
Had the afternoon off
as we 19 were on the night detail.
Got my maps ready and played
billiards in the afternoon. On 10.15
detail and a.p.c. I was scrubbed
so went back to bed

19

19

19

Received School mag from
W. D. H.S.

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 25.

Sat

19 Pulled out at 3 am. and
this time I got away with ff Viney
and Skin as second. Trip was
excellent down to Skenies Corsewall
It at 5.000 then Hedgehopped to
Whitehaven & home. Landed about
1.10 and pulled Sid Baldy & to eat
& tied & just caught the 8 hrs
19 Train & Coniston Tea'd &
Ambleside had dinner & caught
hrs 19 & Windemere. Hired bikes
and rode down to the Fakes where
we got a boat each it was very
pretty as the grass is green & the
trees are just breaking out into leaf
19 Taxi back & Coniston
and so to bed after a jolly good
day

19
Letter from Muriel C.

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 26. Sun

19 Up very tired after yesterdays effort. Told by Flight Sergt that we are posted to No 110 T.U. Bassingbourne. Did very little all day. Went into the Pal last night and had a real show. Harvey lost his false teeth coming home, and when Silkin and I arrived back everybody came out of bed.

19

19

19

Received £4 : 10 : 0

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 27.

Mon

19 Up about 9 o'clock and slowly started to clean up but oh what a job! Went over + got my clearances fixed up + had my meals till Went back 19 the ~~boss~~ barrack block in the afternoon packed and had a sleep Went in to town about 5 had tea at the Y.M. and then went to a Woman's Face," home on the after 19 ~~19~~ picture bus. Skin and Les were very happy

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 28. Tues

19 Called at 5.30 up dressed
and down to the mess for an early
breakfast. Went in on the bus and
then the fun started - We changed
trains at Barrow, Brentchley, Cambridge
and 19 finished our journey at
Royston. Where we packed the
luggage on a wagon and went out
to get our first glimpse of Bassingbourne
We went out to the Camp
and then came back to "Kneesworth
Hall" a lovely old place about 400
yds off the main road -
Very glad to get to bed.

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 29. Wednes

19 Up about 7.20 & Sid
Armory and I walked to camp
which is quite a walk. Had to
get our arrival "Chits" filled in
Had a lecture by the C.O. a Group
Captain, 19 also Lectures on Met., Nav.,
P.T after tea and then had a
game of cricket - home and had
a good bath.

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

APRIL 30.

Thurs

19 Up very early and walked out to the main road where we caught a lift to camp in time for breakfast. Lectures all day but nothing unusual all day long.

19 Back to bed about 10.30

19

19

19

IBCC Digital Archive

MAY 1.

19 In time for breakfast Fri.
ordinary routine of lectures all
ay. Got alarm from 9 to 9.30
ceived £8 on a/ray parade
"B" ranger at 1.30. Posted
19 ne more parcels in & wrote to
m. Had an exam to see who
s going to be observers and who
ntbearers — Heres hoping!
rote to Chem

19

19

19

Received £8

IBCC Digital Archive

19 Fri.

In time for breakfast
ordinary routine of lectures all
day. Gds alarm from 9 to 9.30
Received £8 on a pay parade
in "B" hanger at 1.30.

19 Posted
some more snaps in & wrote to
Chum. Had an exam to see who
was going to be observers and who
Bombardiers — heres hoping!
Wrote to Chum

19

19

19

Received £8

Posted letter to Chum

IBCC Digital Archive