

May

Tuesday 7

1918

Left on the 9.40 Am.  
Arrived London 1.12 noon.  
Stored Muffin Boxes at  
Charing Cross Station.  
Reported Matron in Chief.  
Left for Folkestone at  
3 p.m. Sisters Fraser,  
Sharpe & Con Harris are  
going to France.  
Stayed at Pavilion Hotel.

Wednesday 8

Left Folkestone at  
4.30 P.M. Several W.A.A.C.s  
and Australians in  
board.  
Stayed at Con Sisters  
Rest Home, Boulogne.  
Had "Air Raid" warning  
at 2 A.M.  
Slept fairly well in spite  
of bombardings.

In the late afternoon of May 8, we crossed from Folkestone to Boulogne, and stayed that night at the Canadian Sisters' Rest Home, reporting the next morning to #3 Canadian General Hospital, which had been established three years before by a unit from McGill.

I liked Matron McLatchey from the start - and not just because she gave Pagie and me the rest of that day off. I wrote, with large letters, in my journal that night: IT'S GOOD TO BE IN FRANCE!

It was beautiful country in May, and at every opportunity we went for long walks - 12 kilometres, I noted one day, translating that into 9 miles - to see Sovereign Moulin - and another day to Napoleon's monument in Boulogne, with its back to the Channel that had defeated his plans to invade England more than a hundred years before. And there we climbed 264 steps to the very top.

#3 Canadian General Hospital consisted of groups of huts - each unit of three making up a ward. The wards were alphabetically listed - the huts by numbers. I was assigned to duty in Ward O, which was reserved for medical cases - pneumonia and such illnesses - or shellshock, which we were only beginning to recognize as a serious illness.

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I was in charge of Hut 1. Each hut was built to accommodate 25 patients - but this was the time of the last great German offensive, that so nearly broke through. Heavy convoys of wounded men came from casualty clearing stations near the front lines; and these men had to be crowded in wherever there was space, even for stretchers.

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