

**Letters from D.M. Greig, probationary surgeon at Netley, April-July 1886, and surgeon at Aldershot, Aug-Sept 1886, at Legh Fort (Edinburgh), Oct 1886, and at Stirling Castle, Nov 1886**

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Aldershot

1/8/86 - 6/9/86

Leith Fort

3/10/86 (1 letter)

Stirling Castle

7/11/86 - 21/11/86  
(2 letters)

MEDICAL STAFF <sup>Mess</sup>  
ALDERSHOT.

South Camp

1. 8. 86

My dear Father,

You heard from me last  
on Friday. After exams finished on  
Wednesday I thought Wednesday  
afternoon and Thursday would never  
pass but they did. On Thursday  
we gave up our coats and had nothing  
to do after 10 a.m. In the afternoon  
I called on ~~the~~ Chaumont, and Aitken.  
On Friday we assembled in the lecture  
theatre at noon in our patrols and  
cross belts. The proceedings will be  
better described by the accompanying  
paper than I can do it.

cleaned me out and left me with only a few shillings. Now, I hope I have some money.

We got a special through carriage to Aldershot where we arrived about 6 A.M. A detachment of the M.S. Corps with Co T waggons were waiting for us and we left our three wagon loads of luggage & then under escort and started to walk up to our "place". In walking up to the top of the hill we passed through a little part of the town and further on past enormous cavalry barracks. These are occupied just now by Royal Artillery Bares, Scots Greys.

12<sup>th</sup> Lancers & a Hussar regt.

After a little over a mile from the station we came to the Cambridge Hosp<sup>l</sup> at the top of the hill where met the first guard. These told us to go to the guard room (247) & get our papers & books. After this we were taken round by a non comm. officer who got my servant for me. Scott & I share him between us. Now we saw 60 tents all rigged up & my man took me & mine. Lack of us being a captain ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> a tent for ~~himself~~ <sup>himself</sup>. I would make fewer mistakes if

When ever I knew the result I telegraphed  
to you. Thanks for your congratulations.  
On Friday afternoon I got my things  
packed & also sent off a box to  
you. It contains some note books  
etc. also in a bundle some private  
letters & receipts for accounts. I wish  
these kept ~~unless~~ <sup>unless</sup> I require them for  
reference. In addition I have sent

Hand towels 6

Bath " 2

Shirts 4

Shirts (white) 6

These you might keep till I require  
them or till I am ordered abroad.

After leaving here I shall apply  
for a Scotch depot.

We left Friday at 2.25 on Saturday  
afternoon without any regret. The  
mess subscriptions, etc. having

MEDICAL STAFF, <sup>hus</sup>  
 Camp ALDERSHOT.

The men in the next tents would make less row. While we were looking at our tents we heard the heavy rumble of the C & T. waggons & up came our baggage. You know the "bell" tents, like this



Height 12 ft  
 Diameter 12 ft.

The furnishing for which I pay £1 per month consists of a wooden floor, a bed, a chest of

room, smoking room, messroom  
billiard room etc in it.

(I don't see why the flaps should  
gather in my tent like this. They  
are a hearsey nuisance)

Well, we had a jolly mess though  
not so swell as at Ritzley.

Then we returned to our tents. I  
got to bed soon after 11 P.M. and  
fell asleep at once. Soon however

I was awakened by one of our  
men falling over my tent ropes  
with a shout. Two or three other  
fellows were awakened and then  
followed something like this:-

Voices No 1. "Who the heck's that?"

- No 2. "What do you want?"

No 3. "I've lost my tent."

No 1. "What's your name?"

No 2 "Get a candle."  
and so on. At last a candle  
was got & the unfortunate went  
away contented & found his  
tent! Then followed perfect  
stillness broken only by  
the tramp of the sentry and  
near us or away in the  
distance we could hear

"Halt! Who comes there." "Friend"  
"Ours friend. All's well." This  
did not keep me awake  
long but about 2 A.M.:  
a fire broke out in the  
North Camp and I was  
awakened by the hysterical  
wailing & shouting the

drawers, a basin stand, a mirror  
+ a lamp, 2 pillows, 2 blankets +  
a counterpane + bath.

My biggest box forms a table in  
the centre of the room and at  
present I am writing with my  
desk half on it + half on my  
knee. It is raining + the tent  
pole shaks in the wind making  
my writing worse than usual.  
all round are huts, just like  
the Chinaman huts in fact some  
are said to be old Chinaman ones.  
Well by the time I had got things  
put in order in a kind of way  
I had to get away for mess  
at 8 P.M. Our mess is, of  
course a wooden hut about  
ten feet high and has a reading

MEDICAL STAFF.  
ALDERSHOT.

"Alarm" Then came a rushing about of men as every soldier you know has I turn out at the "Alarm". I did not know what was doing at all but I could hear the commands given "Attention!" "Forward!" "Quick march!" & so on all round followed by the tramping of several regts. Then a man on horse back went past very quickly with his sword rattling on his stirrups and bye & bye I fell asleep again.

Today we have done nothing  
and so I can tell you  
no more. The people at  
Nitley Station could not  
tell me how much the box  
would cost going to Dundee  
but it will not be much.  
Love & all at home &  
out the North Road.

I am

Your affec<sup>t</sup> son

David M. Gray.

Surgeon M. S.

At 5 a.m.: I awakened with a start when the sunrise gun went just above us on the hill. This time I got up opened the door of my tent & saw the sun rising & then turned in again & slept till 6 a.m.: After breakfast this morning while we were lying in the sun - skin at the mess we saw the — Fusilliers march to church with their drums & pipes playing, "Over the garden wall" "Johnny make room for your uncle" & some other tunes. It was jolly fine.

South Camp

MEDICAL STAFF.  
ALDERSHOT.

8<sup>th</sup> Aug 1918

My dear Mother,

Many thanks for your letter. I sit down to try & reply. Note the first clause carefully, I sit down. I am very glad to say I can sit down. It is not every body who could sit down after a week in the riding school of the Scots Greys. My muscles are all so sore that my writing is worse than usual but I hope you will make it out. Tell Father I will be

pampering paper. We heard the guns  
going in the Long Valley all  
forenoon. After lunch I  
went into Aldershot & saw  
the Fifth Bde & some other Infantry  
Regts march in. Aldershot, apart  
from its military aspect, is a  
most uninteresting town. There are  
no sights at all except the  
Wellington Statue near the Long  
Valley where it was placed after  
its removal from Hyde Park.  
On Tuesday our regular work  
begins. We have stutcher &  
company drill from 9 a.m. till  
noon and it is properly hot

work. Then we have lunch  
and at 2 P.M. we go to riding  
school. About 12 go to the 1st  
Regt. others 12 including  
myself go to 2nd Regt. (Peco Group)  
others go to 10th Hussars, others to  
Regt. Art. others to R.L. & others  
to C & T. corps. It is immensely  
fun to see some of the  
men who never were on a  
horse before. I get on all right  
and have not come off  
head first as yet. The school  
is a great hall covered with  
tan. The riding master (Webb)  
and a troop lieutenant (Major) stand  
in the centre while we all ride

glad I get the Lancet weekly  
as I don't see it here at the  
mess. Any papers too are acceptable.  
On Monday after breakfast we  
all went to report ourselves  
to our Commanding Officer Senior  
Surgeon Major Hector. Then at  
11 a.m. went to the Cambridge  
Hospital & were introduced to  
the O. N. C. Surg. Gen. Huddley C.B.  
Paraded at 11.30 a.m. & was  
addressed by Surg. Maj. ~~the~~ Miller  
our Adjutant as to our drill, etc.  
It had been very wet all night  
but was most pleasant under  
canvas and perfectly dry.  
Monday was a big field day  
as you will see by the accom-

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MEDICAL STAFF.  
ALDERSHOT.

round in single file headed by  
a rough riding Corporal. Then  
the Riding Master shouts out  
"Mount! Walk! Lay out (hot)" and  
away we go bump bump for  
an hour. We feel no end of  
a size when we walk through  
the town & the West Barrocks  
in our pantaloons & light boots  
with spurs. I wish you saw  
us clanking down the street with  
such a cavabry swagger on.

On Friday I went to the Gymnasium for the first time to undergo a course of gymnastics. The result of this is that I have scarcely been able to move since.

On Saturdays we have a complete rest, no drill, no riding. So yesterday after breakfast I walked along to the Long Valley & saw the troops, Engineers & 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars doing some maneuvers. The

Long Valley is a desert of dirty sand about 2 or 3 miles long and is the very picture of desolation.

Today after breakfast we saw the

Immickillie Sub<sup>bs</sup> march to church to the tune of "Willie Brewed a Peck o' Malt" on the fife and drums. Then I & Hosié walked along to the Long Valley. I had a bath in the Canal. In the afternoon I went into Aldershot & see the volunteers doing "the heavy".

Yesterday about 2000 volunteers came into camp for a weeks drill. Tents have been put up for them all over the place. Near us are the volunteer Medical Staff corps. The officers of this corps mess with us, but we treat them rather coldly.

We don't swagger nearly so much  
coming back and I have you  
I guess the reason why.

On Thursday I had my first day  
in the Cadet Room seeing  
prisoners tried, and had a short-  
lecture on military law.

In the evening some of our fellows  
formed an extempore band  
and gave those in bed a  
benefit. The band was composed  
of a bath, a biscuit box, a  
pair of bones, & a penny whistle.  
The remarks this band called  
forth from the tents where  
most of us were in bed were  
not very polite.

MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

Father asks some questions in his letter. The finish at Netley gave me no special impressions and was rather a tame affair. Sir Wm MacCormack is not a good speaker but Sir J. Crawford C.B. gave us a splendid little speech. The whole finish was hurried paying accounts, etc. Speaking of accounts I will be down on Father some day soon for a cheque for my full uniform. This I hope will be the last I shall

Officers of 18<sup>th</sup>. Hussars (Princ. of Wales)

Now I must dress for  
mess so good bye for  
the present.

I am

Your affect. son

— Arthur Luff.

have to ask for. At present  
my pay is not far off £20  
a month with extras & so  
on. We make 3/ a day you  
know by living in a tent.

I send you the last of my  
Netley Photos.

1. Fayer.
2. Fayer & Scott.
3. One of the Loyals' children  
who used to salute me when  
it saw me.

In the paper you will see  
the names of the regts which  
are quartered here. Notice the



16. 8. 86

Dear Father,  
In Mother's letter of  
6<sup>th</sup> inst she asked one or two things  
which I did not answer. Firstly  
I have every chance of repairing my  
shirts etc. again and secondly my  
stockings are all right. Mother  
seems to think tucking must be very  
objectionable in wet weather. With  
a good tent as I have this is not the  
case. Last night was very wet and  
windy & yet I was perfectly comfortable  
and dry though the canvas was  
wet through. The worst kind of

17. 8. 86

I was interrupted yesterday and did not get my letter sent off as usual. You will be wondering who has come over me by this time. I had a letter from Leanie at Essie. She seems to have been enjoying herself.

On Wednesday night there was a night attack on our camp over towards the east. The firing kept us awake till about midnight. Soon after this the

fire broke out and ~~we~~ a few of us turned out to see how the men were landed. The fire was a very light one in the stables of the Mounted Military Police.

A good fire here would be very serious as every thing is wood or canvas.

On Thursday at the riding school we had riding without stirrups, which is no joke on the smooth military saddles. There was one man there, an Irishman, who was always falling off, and he made us all laugh most awfully by his endeavours to keep

weather must be snow & cold and  
of course there is none of that yet.  
I think a tent in summer is  
preferable to a house as it is never  
stuffy or close except in the heat  
of the day when the ventilation is  
not good.

We mess at 8 A.M. and on  
Monday night when I was  
coming back to my quarters from  
mess I was watching the signaling  
by lights going on about three  
miles off when I tripped over  
one of the tent guide ropes and  
came such a cropper, very  
much to the astonishment of  
the men in the tent who thought  
it was an earthquake.



on. He made me utterly powerless with laughing and I had to hold on to the saddle & keep from falling off too and this made the riding master shout out, "Now then, Mr. brig, don't hold the saddle, it won't come off."

Of course we have no spurs yet and the horses know this and take advantage of it. Mine is a very lazy beast but when it sees Webb go for the long whip it sharpens up wonderfully.

On Friday there was a big sham  
fight at Fox Hills and after  
an hours drill in the morning  
we were dismissed to go to  
see the arrangement of Ambulances,  
etc. It was splendid, and I  
will send you this weeks camp  
page if it gives a good account of  
it. The attacking forces were  
in dress with Lawsoick & water  
bottle while the defending forces were  
in review order. The Grays  
1<sup>st</sup> Royals & 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars formed the  
Cavalry. The Ryl. Horse Art<sup>y</sup>  
were there too & about seven  
foot regiments.



and got the benefit of the band  
again.

Then I went to Aldershot with  
a few other fellows and saw  
the Cavalry going to Church  
with their bands. Prince Albert  
Victor was with his Company  
in the 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars.

I think I shall get my  
Commission this week but I  
am not certain.

now I have no more to  
say so will shut up  
With love to all

I am  
your affect son  
Edward L. L.

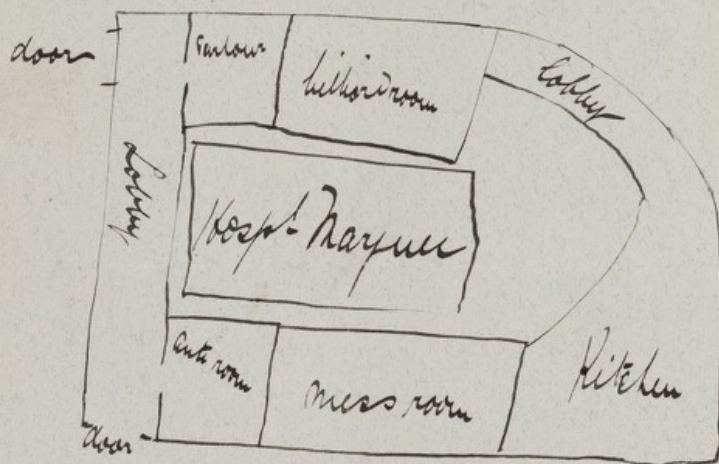
MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

22. 8. 86

My dear Father,

Many thanks for your two letters  
this week and the papers you sent me.  
You complain in your last letter that  
I don't tell you half enough and I  
have an idea that I could tell you  
more if the circumstances under  
which letters are written were more  
favourable. As a rule I write  
in my tent when my box makes  
a worse table than my legs and my  
only chair is shaped so that there

The mess hut consists of 4 rooms viz: a parlour, billiard room, an ante room & mess room. The plan would be like this

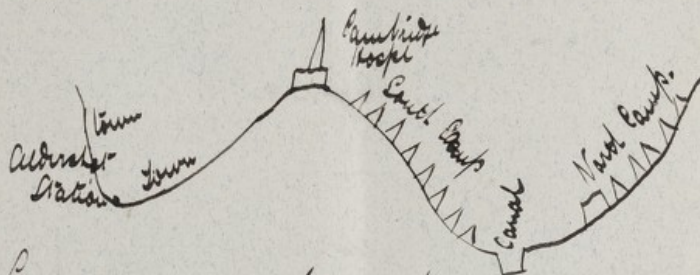


all the huts are of course one storied and are painted dark red, with tarred roofs.

They are arranged in straight lines technically called "lines", the different

lines being distinguished by some letter of the alphabet. Thus the N.E.C. occupy V.W.X.Z lines.

Aldershot is built on small hills. Thus a section would be like this:-



Long series of lines has its own parade ground. This ground is in the form of a parallelogram and reaches in our time from the Cambridge Road to the Canal its length being perhaps about

is a great tendency to fall back. It is shaped like this -



and is much too low to be comfortable. Today however in order that I may try to give you a more carefully composed and written letter I have come up to the mess and am at present writing in our overflow tent. You know that the hut used here as a mess is very small so just behind it there has been erected an hospital magazine which is used as a dining room when our mess room is too full.

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MEDICAL STAFF.  
ALDERSHOT.

1500 yds long by about 50  
broad. It is composed of  
sandy earth and stones and  
here we parade every morning.  
Often during the forenoon we  
have as many as ten different  
Battalions drilling their respective  
squads or companies at the  
same time on this parade  
ground. Just at the foot of  
our lines are the lines of the  
C & T Corps where drilling  
is constantly going on too.

by the bugles and down in the  
cavalry barracks by the cavalry  
trumpets. Then the noise in the  
camp gradually increases and  
the bugle calls are frequent and  
of great variety till tattoo. Then comes the breakfast  
At 5.30 the meat etc is brought  
from the Commissariat to  
every reg<sup>t</sup>. Its arrival is  
superintended by the orderly  
officer of the day each in his  
respective regiment or corps.  
The daily allowance for each  
soldier is then measured out  
and at 7.30 the men come  
with their canteens and get  
so many ounces of bread,  
beef, salt, tea, milk, sugar etc.  
This is superintended by the  
orderly officer of the day.  
Then comes the breakfast  
and then drill, guards,  
pickets, fatigue, etc. till  
dinner time at 12.30.  
Little drill goes on in the afternoon  
but time passes till tea time  
at 5 P.M. Putrat goes at  
7 P.M. and is sounded by the  
bugles all over the camp  
and played by fifes & drums  
on the General Parade.

Besides our own parade ground  
there is a "General Parade Ground"  
at the head of the lines occupied  
by the Infantry Fusiliers;  
and here all general parades are  
held, and retreat & tattoo  
are played every evening.  
The life in camp I think I  
have already told you but there  
will be no harm in doing it  
again. The whole camp is  
wakened at 5 a.m. (5.30 a.m. in winter)  
by the sunrise gun. This is  
immediately followed by the  
reveille all over the camp

MEDICAL STAFF.  
ALDERSHOT.

Soon after this it gets dark and the men gradually return to camp so as to be present at tattoo which lasts from 9.30 till 10 P.M. After this every thing is very quiet except the sentries who now challenge everyone. Soon after this the Field Officer of the day & his A.D.C. ride past, the challenges become more few & far between till the whole camp is sound asleep.

~~by~~ in advancing to a fight  
and we as the M. S. Corps have  
taken up our position in rear.  
After Commanders etc. have  
been appointed we advance  
in detachments or sections  
lift the wounded into the stretchers  
bring them to the wagons and  
so get them ready to be conveyed  
to the nearest movable  
field hospital. I have  
had command of companies  
several times and have  
always got on well enough.  
I have a better voice than

the majority for commanding  
and being Scotch I can  
pronounce all my words  
distinctly.

The riding is getting on  
immensely and most of  
us can now canter quite  
well without stirrups. This  
is no very easy thing to do  
going round corners as  
one has to lean over so  
much and the saddle is so  
very slippery. All this week  
I have been using spurs  
and can ride fairly well

I suppose this is pretty much the same as it was in your day.

We have not yet had any field days though we are getting on in our drill. At least one hour every day is spent with "patients". That is a certain number of us (the smallest men) are told off to be patients.

Ambulance waggoners are placed for us half way down the parade ground and the "patients" go forward about 200 or 300 yds & lie down. They are supposed to have been wounded

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MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

with them now. We get all  
sorts of turning & movements  
to do on horse back and  
after an hour or so of it  
the sweat drops off us on  
to the saddles. My servant  
complains that my Jack  
boots get so wet with sweat  
that he can't get a good  
polish on them.

On Friday and Saturday  
we had some rifle

man introduced me to Lieut.  
Sullivan 17<sup>th</sup> Regt  
who asked me to  
come down this week and  
call on Col. Atkinson. I  
shall go down & see the  
old boy & see if he remembers  
you. We had a right jolly  
night of it with lots of  
singing, music and dancing  
and all our guests seemed  
to enjoy themselves.

Sir Andrew Clark's eldest(?) son  
is here at present. Did you  
know he was in the  
Army? He is a Surgeon

of about 5 years service I  
think.

On Monday I went to see  
the C & T. Corps Athletic  
sports and enjoyed them  
very much. I believe they  
were not good but as I  
had never seen the like  
before, I was much  
interested in them. There  
was tent pepping, lemon  
cutting, tilting at the ring,  
wrestling on horse back, etc.  
The most difficult thing  
seemed to be picking up

practice at the butts. We use  
of course the Martin Henry.  
What a different weapon  
it is from the Brown-Bess  
or Enfield of your time.  
My score was not very  
good but by no means  
the worst.

On Wednesday I had Lieut:  
Butcher Royal Staff Corps  
(42<sup>nd</sup> Lancers) whom I have  
got to know pretty well,  
at mess with me. At the  
same time one of our

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MEDICAL STAFF.  
ALDERSHOT.

Apples at full gallop. The apples were balanced on steps about three feet high about six yards apart, and the competitors tried to pick up as many of these as they could at full gallop. You would need to see it to appreciate the difficulty. Refreshments including ice, champagne, claret etc were provided gratis by the officers

I was glad to see Linselman  
that Reid.

When I have been gazetted  
I will go down town and  
get my photo taken in full  
dress but till then I cannot  
do so as I have really  
no right to wear a sword  
though the commission dates  
from Augt 1<sup>st</sup> Last  
month at Netley with its  
contingent expenses of fees etc.  
cost me rather more than  
I expected and although

I am not in debt I  
have not too much to spend  
to be getting photographed.

I got your second letter this  
morning and was sorry to  
hear Alice & Anne had not  
been well. Is it serious?

I was much amused at  
Gibbs latest escapade. What  
an idiot he is!

Thanks for the Portman.  
Cautley C. G. of the V. M. S. C.  
is a very nice fellow and  
knows his place as a  
commander

of the Corps to all their  
guests. Our mess of course  
was invited too.

The Laurel arrived here all  
right & I had nothing extra  
to pay.

We have no hospital work  
to do at all as all our time  
is taken up drilling. You  
might congratulate Lempman  
& Stalker for me on their  
appointments. I am glad  
they got it. Of course  
Stalker's appointment was  
a foregone conclusion but

6.

MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

but most of the other officers  
were fools! Lieut Canthi  
& Cathcart I spoke to  
now. Cathcart created  
a great sensation among  
us. He got his uniform made  
in Edinburgh and though  
only a Surgeon wore the  
tunic of a Surgeon General!  
There was a man, Lake  
who had been at the Nile

but then the volunteer has  
~~money~~ and thinks it  
the proper thing  
to stand the regulars  
drinks or "rets" as they are  
called. The Scotsman  
omitted to say that the  
night before the V.M.S.C.  
left they opened their  
canteen to the regulars  
from retreat to tattoo  
and allowed them to  
drink as much as they  
could gratis. Tobacco

was also supplied gratis.  
As a result of this about  
20 of our men were  
landed in the guard  
room as drunk and  
had to answer for it  
before the C.O. next morning  
in the orderly room.

I think the only full  
description of our uniform  
can be got in Dress  
Regulations for H.M. Army.  
a book which I have not  
got. I don't think I

with the Geneva Cross Society  
who wore a medal & thought  
himself no end of a warrior.  
He frequently got drunk  
evidently thinking it the  
proper thing to do when  
he associated with real  
Army men, and he was  
the most unmitigated  
liar I have ever met.  
I made a mistake in  
saying our men disliked  
Volunteers. Of course they  
dislike fatiguing for them

MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

Have a description of it  
in any of the books I  
have but I will look  
+ see. The locked lat  
is going out slowly  
among the seniors and  
I think there is no doubt  
that the helmet is the  
best head dress yet invented.  
When I leave here I  
will try to get stationed

letter and I must go close  
for its inordinate length  
With love to all at home  
& in the North

I am

Your affec<sup>t</sup> son

David M. Greig.

~~Lucy M. S.~~

about Perth, Glasgow or  
somewhere in the north  
where I can be near  
home for a while before  
going abroad.

Ask Mother what wool I  
should get to darn my  
socks with as I can  
do it better than I can  
get it done here.

Did Lin ever get the Stag  
Butch I sent him?

Now it will take you  
about a week to read this

MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

29.8.86

My dear Mother,

Many thanks to all at home for their letters, yourself of course included though I wish you would give me more of it when you to begin. Nell's letter was very enjoyable and her description of the Asylum dance was such as to bring to mind old times which seem a long way off now. Do you wish me to return Lanie's letter.

as it has not arrived here yet.  
I suppose they will all be looking  
forward to school beginning again.  
Who is Oridie whom Father says  
is at the Infirmary? Is he the  
man who used to be Simpson's  
class assistant? I did not  
know they had got two residents  
there now.

I think this finishes the letters and  
now for the events of the week.

On Monday morning some of  
us began a voluntary course  
of manual rifle drill. For this  
we turn out at 6:20 a.m. &  
have it for an hour.

Every day now since last Friday  
we have had jumping at the

riding school, so you see we are  
getting on nicely.

On Tuesday I was orderly medical  
officer. For this I had to get up  
at 5 a.m. & into uniform and  
at 5:30 I marched nearly 200  
men of the M. S. C. to bathing  
parade. When I came on  
the parade ground the men were  
drawn up in 6 companies.  
The Capt. Major reported all  
present and I took command.  
Then I marched them to the  
canal near the Long Valley  
and ordered them to fall  
out. It was a great sight  
to see them all strip and

which duly forwarded to me? I  
shall keep it for a week and if  
I do not hear from you before  
that time I shall destroy it.

As regards my socks I think  
I will follow your advice and  
after I have got several pair  
requiring to be darned I shall  
send them home to be put right.  
The washing here is not a success  
but as I have only a short-  
time to be here now it is not  
worth while changing.

How did you enjoy the exhibition?  
I have heard it is better than the  
Collindries in London. What  
did the kids think of it?  
I think Lina's letter must have  
gone astray in transmission

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MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

tumble into the water. Then I  
let them stay in about 10  
or 15 minutes and ordered the  
bugle to sound. Then they all  
came out, dressed & put in.  
As the sun had not got up  
yet it was rather cold and  
I thought I would warm  
the men by giving them a  
run so I gave the order  
"In succession from the front  
Right Wheel, Double March!"  
and away they went down  
the hill as fast as they

any more. So we ran on for nearly a mile before the  
sergeant major came  
up to me all out of breath and  
suddenly asked if I would not  
"break into quick time quick!"  
I can tell you it did not  
require any persuasion to  
make me shout out: "Infantry  
Staff Corps! Break into quick time  
Quick!" I got back about  
6:30. Then I had to inspect the  
~~camp~~<sup>camp</sup> & wood for the day. See  
breakfasts & other meals. Go  
round the married quarters,  
canteen, kitchens, etc, inspect  
pickets, prisoners, and then

out the guard twice. I was  
busy till 10.45 P.M. and was  
very glad I got out of uniform  
& turn into bed at that time.  
Luckily I was not called at  
night and so slept till 6.30 A.M.  
On Thursday all of us were  
marched with the men of the  
Corps down to a common  
near the ~~the~~ Rgt. Art. Cavalry  
barracks where we pitched  
a field hospital. It is  
rather interesting but very  
hard work pitching tents.  
On Friday we pitched a  
heavy company in camp ment

could run. I told you that  
the Long Valley was made of  
dirty fine sand and dust. You  
don't know what dust is till  
you run behind 200 men  
in close order in a place  
like the Long Valley. After  
we had run for about 5  
minutes it struck me it  
would be better to go slower  
when I found to my horror  
that I did not know the  
words of command to bring  
them to the quick march again.  
Well I saw there was no  
help for it, so I gripped my  
sword tighter & settled to  
run till I couldn't run

3

MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

on our own parade ground.  
Drill lasted only till 11 on  
Friday as we had been  
asked to attend at the marriage  
of Lvy: Genl: Keady's daughter.  
Her husband is Lieut: W. H. Balfour  
13<sup>th</sup> Bungal Lancers. So by  
11.20 all who were going were  
in uniform (full dress, with gold  
striped overalls) and we walked  
to the church about a mile  
off. There were 34 of us and  
about 10 of our Juniors making  
nearly 40 medicals in full dress.

like a page of Charles I<sup>st</sup> time  
dressed in the same gold satin  
and with long  
light yellow hair down his  
shoulders. The bridegroom  
looked very nice in his  
Lancaster Uniform. After  
the bride had gone in, we  
all filed into church ~~and~~ and  
stood in the aisles. Before the  
ceremony was done we all  
went out again and took  
up our posts as before.  
When the newly married couple  
came out again we all  
drew swords and crossed

them so as to form an arch  
of steel for the pair to walk  
under like the picture of  
the Queen of Swords that  
ours was more swell.  
On Friday night we were  
commissioned and so  
on Saturday forenoon as  
I promised Father I went  
and got my photo taken in  
full dress. I shall send  
them to you when I get  
them and if you like them  
you can order ~~the~~ as

The walk from the gate of the grounds to the Church door was laid with crimson cloth and all the young surgeons arranged ourselves along this so that in going into the Church the bride & company had to walk along between two rows of officers. The bride looked very nice and the bride's maids were dressed in satin the colour of the gold on the wall in Berwick smoking room. The bride's train was held up by a little boy about 20's size dressed

4

MEDICAL STAFF,  
ALDERSHOT.

many as you like directly from  
Hills & Saunders or get  
a dozen from me.

On Saturday afternoon I went  
along to see our mess play  
cricket against the men of the  
corps. Our side was a  
man short and so I took  
the vacant place. We had  
a jolly fine game and gave  
the men an awful thrashing.  
The heat here just now is

That would be fine but I don't  
think I will be sent out of  
Britain for about  
a year yet.

Next Friday I am going to  
Gloucester & see Louisa  
if all goes well and will  
write when I return.

In the meantime give my  
love to all

and behind me

Dear Mother

Your affectionate son

David M. Grieg

really awful and several cases  
of sunstroke amongst the  
men have occurred. I stand  
it very well and rather enjoy  
the heat and I am told I  
am getting a dark mahogany  
colour.

This now finishes the news  
for the week.

We have only I think two  
more Sundays here and  
goodness knows where I  
will go then. There is a  
rumour of sending us to  
Burmah this trooping season.

South Camp,  
Aldershot.

6. 9. 86

My dear Felly,

I suppose as tomorrow  
is your birthday I ought  
to write a letter on you  
but as you will be at  
Essex I shall send  
it to Mother and she  
will forward it after having  
read or tried to read it.

Many thanks for all your  
letters to me this last

so now most heartily -  
who is Baker's successor  
at West-press? That is  
the only question I have  
to ask as regards your  
last letter.

I had two delightful letters  
from Leanie this week  
giving me all the news  
from the north. She  
seems to have been  
enjoying herself any  
amount.

Now then for the news of the  
week.

On Monday we spent the  
forenoon drill in making  
field kitchens. I wish  
you had seen us all  
with our coats off, working  
like navvies with pickaxe  
and shovel in a sun  
with a temperature about  
150°. In the afternoon  
while jumping a jump  
4½ feet high at the

month or so. You know  
my letters although ~~are~~  
addressed to one person  
at home at a time  
they are really to every one.  
My letters are so long as  
a rule that they exhaust  
all my news and I  
could not write two such  
letters at once.

I suppose I should have  
been by wishing you  
many happy returns  
of the day; and I do

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riding school I came  
off for the first time.  
I mounted at once and  
went at it again, and  
this time my horse  
jumped well but fell  
while galloping round  
the corner of the school  
and sent me flying  
over its head in grand  
style. It was great fun!  
After riding school I

and tried to knock or  
pull each other off their  
horses.

In the Balaclava Melic  
the men were dressed in  
great masks and leather  
jackets & armed with  
basket sticks. The  
men were drawn up  
six a side, every side  
having their own colours  
fixed like a plume in  
their masks. The  
idea was to cut off

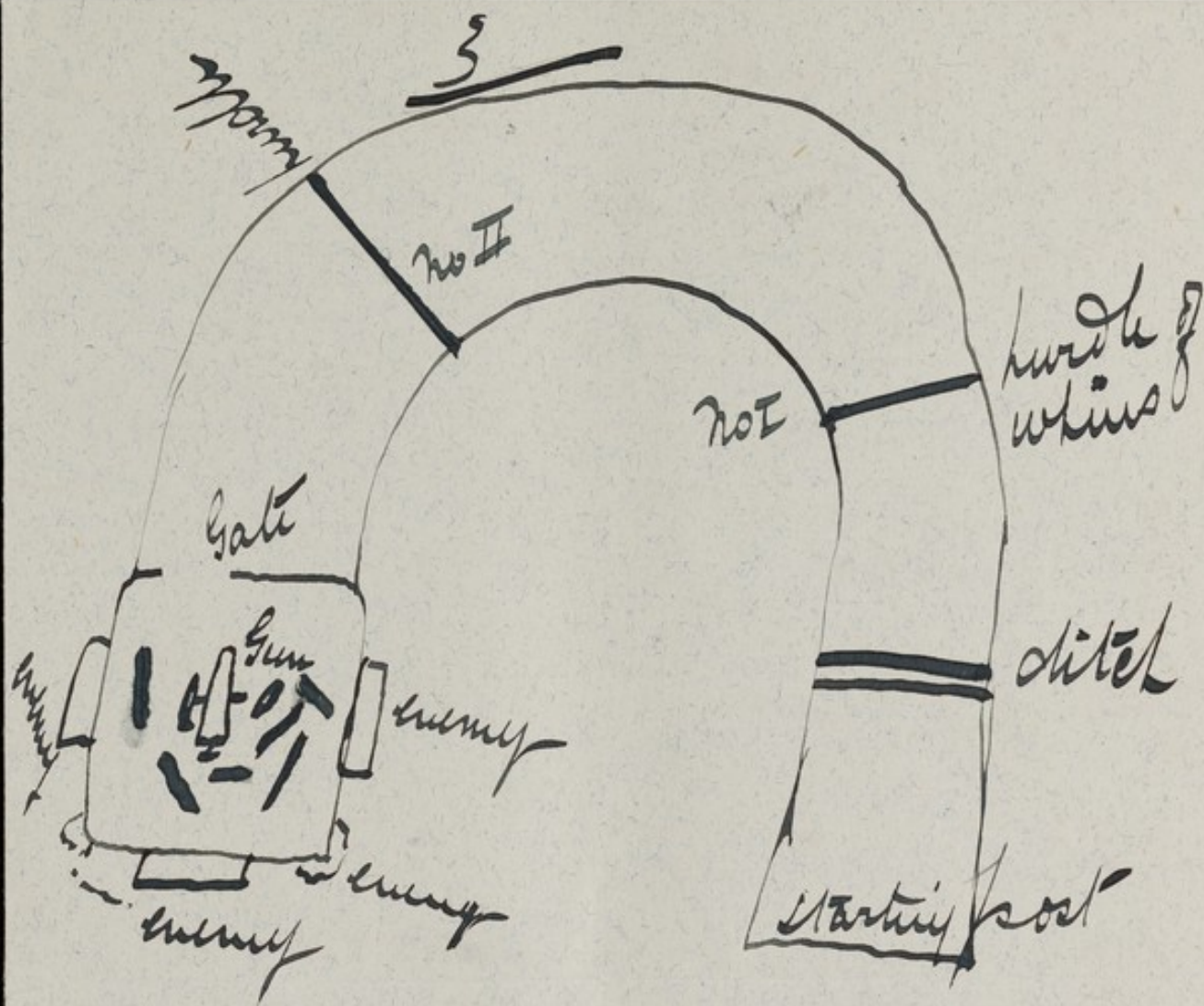
this plume. When the  
charge sounded, the  
opposite sides charged  
each other and cut &  
slashed away, each  
man retiring as his  
plume was cut off.  
The first prize was  
won by the Scots Greys.  
The great thing however was  
the Victoria Cross Race.  
The course was arranged  
like this:—

went to see the Royal  
Horse Artillery sports.

The most exciting things  
were the Wrestling on Horse  
back; Balaclava Reel  
& The V. C. Race.

The Wrestling on horse back  
is done bare backed  
without boots or spurs.

The men were arranged  
six on each side, and  
when the trumpet sounded  
they charged each other



The men were drawn up at the starting post in troops of 6 each all in undress uniform with pistols.

On a given signal they started and the first thing they laid to pump was a

fire on the men who  
came into the enclosure.  
When the competitors of  
the race rode into this  
enclosure they had to  
dismount, fire off six  
barrels of their revolvers,  
pick up one of the  
wounded men, throw  
him on his horse and  
ride back with him over  
the same course as he

had come, including the  
jumps. It was a  
most exciting race.  
The competing corps  
were 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoon, Scots Greys,  
10<sup>th</sup> Hussars & Royal Artillery.  
Several of the men made  
wonderful escapes though  
their horses falling but  
no one was killed or  
permanently injured.  
It was great fun to see  
the men fall especially

ditch, then a wide road  
of white bushes, then a  
second hedge. Then they  
led to ride into an  
enclosure where a dis-  
-mounted gun lay. Round  
this gun were half a  
dozen "dummies" dressed  
as soldiers each carrying  
about ten stones.

Around about the enclosure  
the enemy lay in ambush  
and kept up a constant

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with a "dummy."

When the Hussars' horses  
had ridden into the enclosure  
they stopped beside one of  
the dummies and without  
any word of command  
and without heeding the  
firing going on round  
them, they lay down  
and waited till their  
masters had put a  
dummy on their backs

this, thinking it would be so nice and easy to lift and carry. It was rare fun to see them tackle it for it was filled with sand and weighed about a ton.

Another of the dummies was dressed as a man of the medical staff corps. It was

afterward reported at our mess that when the race was over this dummy could not be found, and no trace was found of it till the evening when it turned up in the canteen. I think it a splendid joke, to think that even the uniform, without a man in it, could not get over the habit of going to the canteen.

and seated themselves in  
the saddles before they  
rose. It is perfectly  
impossible for me  
to describe how splendid  
the race was. It was  
won by the 70<sup>th</sup> Hessars.

Among the dummies was  
one dressed as a drummer  
and much smaller than  
any of the others. Many  
of the men made for

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in the evening.

Now as it is getting late  
I must stop and  
continue my letter  
tomorrow.

7<sup>th</sup> Sept. 80.

I finished the above almost in the  
dark last night so you must  
excuse the hieroglyphics.

On Tuesday night rather an  
amusing incident occurred in  
connection with our camp.

sentry who gave the alarm. The fire broke at once went; the whole camp turned out and before our men knew what the row was about the fire engines, mounted orderlies & mounted military police were on the spot.

Fancy the whole camp of several thousand men turning out to see a few of us rat-killing.

On Thursday we had a field day. We marched to the Long Valley after breakfast with

our full complement of Ambulance Wagon, Carts etc: but soon after we had collected all our wounded the rain came on so heavy that we had to return.

A divisional field day was ordered for Friday but thank goodness it rained so heavily that it was countermanded.

As I was very anxious to get away by the 11.50 train I got off an hours drill by reporting sick.

Not very far from our tents is  
a great rubbish hole where all  
the daily rubbish of the South  
Camp & Cavalry Barracks  
is emptied. It is, of course,  
infested with rats and on  
the night in question about  
a dozen of our men had  
gone there for a rat hunt.  
After hunting for some time  
they found that several  
rats had taken refuge in  
a white bush and in order  
to get the rats out they set  
fire to the dry bush.

The blaze was seen by a

I then hurried along to my  
 tent where my servant was  
 waiting & got into my  
 and away to London. I  
 got to London about  
 12-30 A.M. & drove at once  
 to Fred Miller's. He was  
 very much astonished to see  
 me. As my train for  
 Gloucester did not leave Paddington  
 till 3 A.M. I spent some  
 time with Fred who as  
 usual gave me 'quantum

On Saturday morning after ~~the~~  
breakfast Mrs Loutar & I had  
a walk over the Asylum  
grounds. Then I was  
introduced to Mr & Mrs  
Tuckham & about 11 am  
the carriage was ready to  
take Linn & I to the station  
to go to the "Wilderness". The  
"Wilderness" is a house belonging  
to Barnwood House & is  
used as a country house  
for the patients. It is  
situated on hills over looking  
the Severn about two miles

from the village of Mitcheldeham.  
Here we spent a most  
delightful afternoon and  
got back to dinner about  
4 o'clock.

On Sunday morning I  
saw through the Asylum  
and attended service there.  
Then I had lunch before  
starting homewards, as  
my leave only extended till  
midnight on Sunday.  
I enjoyed my short visit  
very much. Barnwood

suff: I Leanie Johnston.  
I got to Gloster at 6 P.M.  
and as no one was meeting  
me I took a taxicab to  
Barnwood House. Here I  
was met by Mrs Luntar,  
Lin not being yet finished  
with his day's work.  
They have got such a nice  
little house within the  
Asy lum grounds.  
Soon afterwards Lin came  
down and we had dinner  
& then music & a long  
chat afterwards.

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Kause is a delightful place.  
Mr Loutar was awfully nice  
& kind. Lin sent his  
love to Leanne and both  
he & Mr Loutar send kind  
regards to all the ~~other~~ under  
people.

The train back was awfully  
slow and I did not get  
home till nearly midnight.  
Now hell, I think I  
have written a long enough  
letter for this week, and

As it is ~~meant~~ to be a birth  
-day letter you must  
excuse its lateness and  
take into consideration  
its inordinate length.  
With love to all at home  
& @serin

I am  
your affect. brother  
Edward L. Loring.



Lith Fort-  
3.10.88

My dear Father,

Thanks for your letter of  
20<sup>th</sup> ult: - Newbaven Rd: is about  
ten minutes walk from the Fort:  
I am not sure yet whether or not  
I shall go to the Ball. I am  
afraid not as it is not very easy  
for me to get away off Saturdays  
duties. But I shall see later  
on. You ask about the recruits

coming through for a night. It  
will be folly to go to see the  
exhibition with them.

I send you a few photos. The  
group was done at Duthy on  
the beach but they were all  
sitting with their backs to the  
sun so that the faces have come  
out in the shade. It is an instan-  
-taneous photo. The other represents  
Bent standing on his head.

The last is our camp at Aldershot.  
It was taken instantaneously too.  
You can see the Lark looking round  
the corner of the sentry box at

some of our fellows starting out  
for a walk with their dogs. At  
the right hand side of every tent  
has a bath & at two tents you  
can see fellows sitting on their  
baths reading. The other things

you will find named in the duplicate.  
Yesterday I spent the afternoon  
at Mrs Scott's. She was asking  
for you and the rest at home.

We have some athletic sports tomorrow  
at the Fort and I have asked  
some of Mrs Scott's girls to come  
& see them with me.

So Bell is at present away from

Well there are not very many just now, on an average only two or three a day at the Fort but far more at the Castle. They come to me from Forfarshire, Midlothian and a few more counties. Many go to Glasgow & elsewhere and may be sent on to the Depot at Woolwich from there direct. At Little Fort during September only 4 recruits were brought up and of these 24 were rejected as unfit. Is the shooting still all just now? and is the shooting good? I am so glad the girls are



home and Charles Mac Lethbray is doing his Infirmary work for him. I have seen him lately do some very good operations. The Post-Graduate course is going on just now, but as many of the lectures are in the forenoon I have not yet managed to get to any. Now I think I have finished all I have to say so will

Shut up.

With love & all

I am

Your affect. Son

David M. Lusk



Stirling Castle.

4. 11. 86

My dear Father,

I have now got settled down into my new quarters. Not that it takes long to do that, for I was quite settled down by Tuesday night, but I mean I begin to feel as if I had been here ever so long. For the first few days after my arrival here the weather was just

Charge of the Leports' here is Lieut. Gottis-  
-woode. He stays here in  
the Castle Hotel so I see more  
of him than I do of the others.

My hospital is a separate house from  
the barracks themselves and not quite  
so high up the hill. It is called  
Arpyll's House or Lodging and was  
built in 1630. It belonged as its  
name implies to the Arpyll family  
at one time. It is like the rest of  
the castle composed mostly of  
passages and doors covered with  
rails. The main staircase is so  
wide as to let four or five men  
march up it abreast and has such

a massive wooden balustrade.  
At present I have only about half  
a dozen patients so my work is  
not too severe.

Ernie & Helen would tell you how  
I met them at Lodi? and came  
along with them. They looked when  
I met them like some of the men  
do when they have been sentenced to  
196 hours cells or something of that  
sort, they were so downcast and  
sad. But by this time I suppose  
they will have reverted to the normal.  
When I arrived here I put up for the  
night at the "Golden Lion" until I  
got into my present quarters on  
Tuesday. On Tuesday I formally

as bad as it could be, nothing but rain and wind, but today and yesterday have been good days but very cold. Today after luncheon I went up to the top of the Caith with Lieut: Spottiswoode (72<sup>nd</sup>) and Capt: Paterson (91<sup>st</sup>) and had such a splendid view of the Course of the Caith right away down to Leith. Stirling is the Depot of A & S. Hdr's and so consists mostly of recruits, which the Regt stationed at Edinburgh send a company here occasionally for shooting.

Our Colonel is Colonel A. Templeman an awfully nice old fellow. Then comes Capt: Paterson our Adj: and Lieut: M<sup>r</sup> Kerrel. The officer in



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relieved Hon: Bdr: Cuy: Murry (R) and then spent most of the time unpacking my things and getting settled.

On Friday I walked over to Cambuskenneth and saw the ruins of the Abbey and also the stone erected by Queen Victoria to James III & his wife. Then I walked over to the Wallace Monument and inspected it, though the day was not clear enough to get a very good view from the top.

I wish you could come over

any thing more at all to say.  
With love to all,

I am  
your affect-son  
David M. Gray.

over and spend a day with me. I  
am sure the girls could easily  
come and would enjoy it. They  
could leave  under at 11.5  
and return in the evening easily.  
I am going to dine at the mess  
tonight being Sunday but on other  
days I make luncheon do for  
dinner and have tea at home  
in the evening so that I have  
all the evening to do what I  
like in. at present I am  
reading up diseases of the spinal  
cord a subject I had not time  
to take up at College.  
Now I don't think I have



Stirling Castle.

21-11-86

My dear Father,

I got across here all right on Monday morning in time for duty. Nothing urgent had occurred since I left so that altogether my visit to Dundee was a success. When I got to my quarters I found a note waiting for me from a man Brown in practice here asking me to dinner that evening. Brown was in Louis' Infirmary with Lin Sauter so I got to know him. Of course I accepted & spent a very pleasant evening

Hele & then dressed and got to the College at sharp 6:30.

The dress we wore was mess dress but you were quite right for full dress was to be worn formerly. However the O. M. sent round a special order that mess dress was to be worn.

The other members of the medical staff present were, O. M. O. Ayde: Coy: Clifton Lupton, Hosie, Taylor, & Mills from Bow: Castle & Surg: Johnston from Turshill.

As we arrived at the College we divested ourselves of overcoats & caps and were announced into the reception room. Here the president (Argyle Robertson) in his presidential robes received each new arrival, usual.

I suppose there would be 50 or 60 there. After all had arrived so Bell read out

the names and each walked in as his name was shouted. I was seated between Prof. Annandale & Blair-Cunningham.

The dinner was fairly good and the room comfortable. John Chene and Charlie Macgillivray came in late.

We found lots of things to talk about. Blair Cunningham had been in the Army under the old system and had been at Netley during its first session - I think he belongs to Dundee.

Then came the Toast list. The Queen & Prince & Princess of Wales and other members were drunk as

usual. Then the President proposed the Army Navy & Reserve forces.

On Monday too as I told you I had to  
perform a duty which I think must  
always be objectionable to a C. O.  
viz I punish one of my men. He had  
been arrested on Friday night drunk  
& absent without leave and was brought  
before me (his C. O.) by the guard on Monday.  
Evidence was led and I found him  
guilty & punished him accordingly.  
Stirling is a very slow place and so I  
have nothing to tell you till Friday  
when I get leave to go to Leith. I left  
here at noon and took three hours to get  
to Leithburgh on account of some  
breakdown which had happened the  
night before. Well I got in at last  
and went and had some luncheon at the  
Café previous to going out to Aunt Helens.  
I spent the afternoon talking to Aunt



This was replied to in a very long speech  
by the D. M. C. Blair-Cunningham  
replied shortly for the reserve forces.

Then came a song from D. R.

Low-les which was rather amusing.  
He had evidently only two songs and  
he broke down in the first because  
he began too high and in the  
second because he had forgotten the  
words.

"The Sister Medical Corporation" was  
proposed by the vice-president John  
Smith and replied to by Sir Douglas  
MacLagan for the College of Physicians

Royal College of Surgeons.

The last toast "The non-resident-  
fellows" was pro-

posed by Sir  
William Turner & replied to by  
Dr. Lawrence of "Camelback".

I am not very sure of this last word  
and have spent it phonetically.

The toast list was not over till  
past eleven o'clock and as Uncle  
Wittie had given me the keys  
I went up to the Campbell's rooms  
and had a smoke before going home.

I had to rise about 4 o'clock in the  
morning and got back to duty  
soon after 10 a.m.

I wish you would send me at once  
an ear speculum or two if you have  
one or more to spare. If you have  
only the one set never mind,  
but let me know by Wednesday  
morning.

Now I have nothing more to say.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

I am

your affectionate son

David M. Gray

P.S. Have Mary & I left for

London?

and the Vice president of the Glasgow  
Faculty for his own college.

Then we had a funny song from  
John Smith called "Father Nolley".  
This was chored pretty much as it  
was rather funny.

The Edinburgh Medical School was pro-  
posed by Dr. Robertson of Glasgow  
and replied to by Prof. Fraser and  
Clair Murdoch.

Then came a song by a Dr. ~~Thatcher~~  
Thatcher. He had a splendid voice  
and sang very well indeed.

Is Bell then proposed the Clergy  
in a very short speech and Mr.  
Pitcher of Bowness replied.

George Balfour then proposed the

Netley

1/4/86

- 18/7/86



1. IV - 86

Dear Sir

You will I expect  
be very surprised to hear  
from me so soon as you  
know it is not my usual  
custom to write very often.  
But I must write just  
to thank you and Mary  
for your excessive kindness  
to me. 'Excessive' is not

same.

As I only left you this morning I have not had much time to collect facts or events & make a letter but I shall tell you what happened after I left you. Well then the first thing of importance is that I got to Northam. What a lot of baggage! Then we went on by next train to Melkay & here I am. When the train arrived here we found the

platform lined by men of A.H.C. who were & the our servants. I was not long in finding out mine and pointed out my baggage & him. All the baggage was then put into two large Army Service Corps vans & I got a cab and drove to Melkay Hospital. The first thing I did was to report myself to the P.M.O. (Principal Medical Officer) & then to the Adj't General. Then I

the adjective I wanted but  
I cannot yet hold of  
the right one just now.  
You were really too kind  
to me especially as it  
is in the highest degree  
unprobable that I shall  
ever be able to repay  
you in any way. Now  
I am not going to pile  
on the agony by repeating  
that same sentiment over  
and over again in  
different words as I feel  
inclined to do, but you  
must take it for granted,  
and ask Mary to do the

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set off & find my  
quarters. There are  
seen to be two buildings  
here, viz:- The hospital and  
the Mess Block. They are  
about ten minutes walk  
away. Some of the  
fellows stay in the  
Mess Block but I stay  
in the Hospital. It  
was about 4 P.M. before  
I found my quarters  
and so I kind of

letting. I wish you saw  
the room! A small  
cell about 12 feet each  
way & 20 feet high like  
the inside of a chimney.  
A small bed, plain  
wooden table about  
large enough to hold  
a ~~roast~~ roast-buff-dish,  
a couple of plain wood  
chairs like this:-



P.S. Send this to Lay  
Street or tell them  
the contents. My address  
is  
Surgeon —  
Royal Victoria Hosp  
Nethy  
Hants.

of my own and have lots to do.

Between 10 - 10 45 a.m. on alternate days we have Lectures in clinical medicine and ophthalmic instruction or operations.

11-12.55 ~~on alternate days~~ Lect: A has Hospital or library and Lect: B has alternate work in the Hypnic laboratory and Pathological work or P.M.'s.

1. 2 P.M. we have lectures as follows

Monday Hypnic

Tuesday Pathology

Wednesday Military Surgery

costs 2/6 per dinner. The room is an immense place and tables are set all round. We all bring our own servants and the whole is under supervision of the mess-sergeant. ~~When~~ The mess-president & vice sit at opposite ends of the table and when a new dish is brought in all the waiters take their stand in a line behind the president & vice with the dishes in their hands. The mess-sergeant then goes to the middle of the room looks round & sees that every-thing is right and if every thing is satisfactory he gives a signal with his hand, whereupon all

the waiters begin simultaneously to serve as if their life depended on it.

Dinner lasts till 9 P.M. Then smoke & to bed finishes the day.

On Friday last the 52<sup>nd</sup> or summer session at Netley was opened by an address from Prof. Smith (Medicine). The P.M.O (Surg: Genl Murray) and Surg: Genl. Laing were the principle ones there. Aitken was there & Laing de Chamant also but I did not know him.

On Saturday I sent my servant to Woolston with Mothers letter & box to Mr. Aitken and I suppose shall have to go

Thursday Hygiene  
Friday Medicine

On Wednesdays between 3 o'clock  
P.M. we have Lectures.

These classes only begin tomorrow  
so I shall tell you more about  
them next time I write.

The afternoon is then free and  
we get into Mufti. Saturday  
is free except hospital work  
as also is Sunday.

Every day we have to make an  
evening visit between 6 & 8 P.M.  
and then dress for mess.

Mess takes place at 7.30 &  
I enclose one of our menu  
cards for it. Beer & wine are  
offered but are extras. Mess



## M E N U

VENDREDI, AVRIL 2.

### POTAGES.

Rognon. Brunoise.

### POISSONS.

Merluches frits. Turbot bouilli.

### ENTRÉES.

Escalopes de Veau aux petits Pois.  
Rissoles à la Salpicon. Currie à l'Indienne.

### RELEVÉS.

Longe de Porc rôti.  
Entre-côtes de Bœuf.  
Hanche de Mouton rôti.

### RÔTS.

Faric Hens. Pouding de Marmalade.

### ENTREMETS.

Tarte de Rhubarbe.  
Gelée au Vin. Blanc-manger.  
Compote des Reinettes.

Thursday Hygiene

3

Sunday to dine with them.  
I shall tell them that you are  
coming here with Mother about  
July and I hope you will  
come on a Wednesday so  
as to miss with us.

Today I am orderly officer of the day  
and go on duty at 3 P. M. till  
9 A. M. tomorrow. This always  
puts me in mind of that joke  
in Punch some time ago when  
the orderly officer of the day

the baths (Mr. R. E. Eyrar) and get  
me a similar pair made  
as soon as possible  
and send them on to me.  
Love & all & hope to hear  
tomorrow

Your affec son  
David M. Eyrar

comes up to a sentry <sup>at night</sup> duty and  
says:- "Now then sentry why don't  
you turn out your sword, I'm orderly  
officer of the day." and the sentry  
replies, "Then what the devil are  
you doing out at this time of  
night."

It has not been very good weather  
since our arrival so I shall  
not describe the place till  
my next letter and as I shall  
soon have to go on duty I  
must dry up. I hope you  
will send my lamp soon,  
and I wish you would get  
him to borrow a pair of  
No 5 bathing drawers from

R. V. Hoep.

Wm  
Hants.

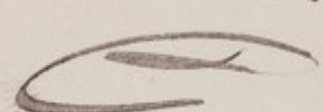
O. S. Tell Mother that if  
there are any boots of mine  
good enough to wear I will  
be glad of them as they ruin  
my reputation ones. Also  
I should like 3 plain woollen  
shirts & wear instead of my  
white ones under my uniform  
and I have hooks & eyes  
instead of studs in front  
as collars are never worn.  
Only,

R. V. Hosp:  
8. IV. 86

Dear Mother,  
I have just time to  
write you a short note after  
breakfast before going to Hospital.  
What I want in the way of shirt  
is one without a starched front,  
without studs, ~~or~~ and without a  
collar but must have holes  
for fastening cuffs to. The  
material of which it is made  
is of no consequence. The  
reason I want such shirt  
is that white ones are very

easily spoiled by wearing them under  
uniform and the constant  
changing is a great nuisance.  
I got my lamp yesterday and  
it was not much damaged  
the tin parts were rather crushed  
but easily put right.  
Today it is raining like anything  
Will write on Sunday.

Yours affect. Long

 Avert the Brig.

P.S. You might send me at once  
by post a book in Father's  
Consulting room right hand  
bookcase. It is a strongly  
bound book  $8\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
and labelled "Note Book" and  
contains some Lumsden notes.

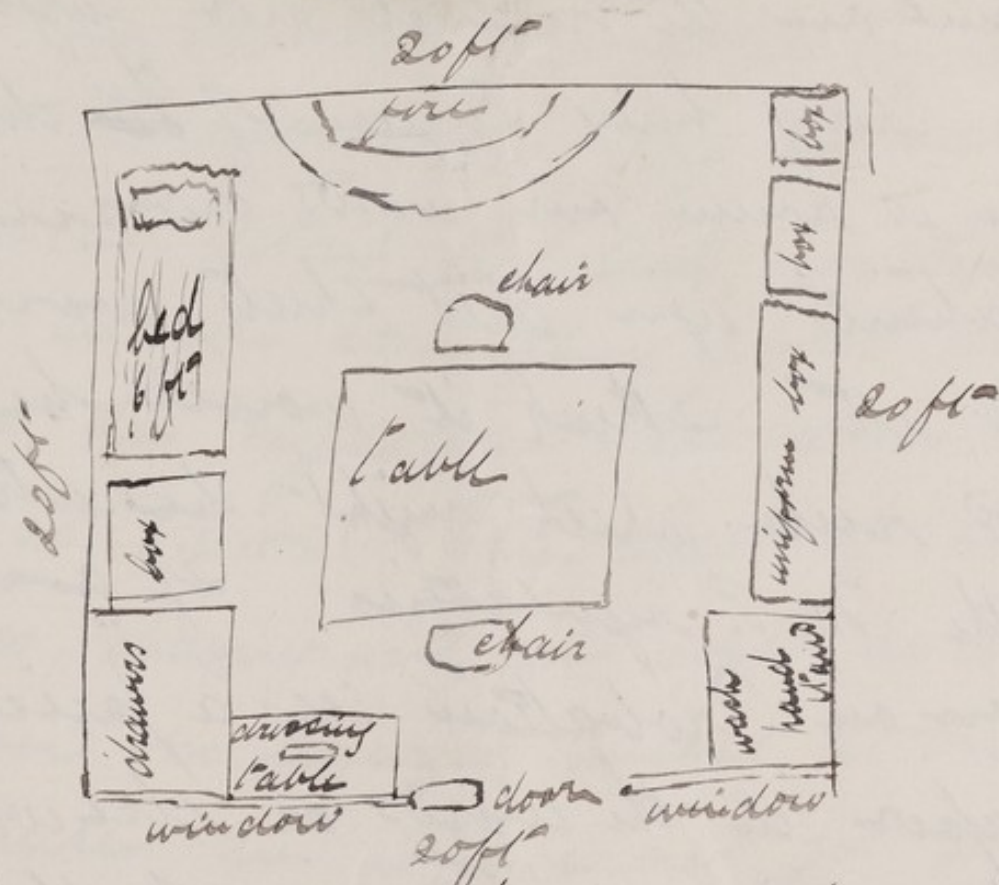
4. IV. 86

Dear Father,

In all probability you will by this time have seen, or heard the contents of my note to Jo, and it now seems difficult to know where to begin as I ~~see~~ have a good deal to say to you. My room now I have had time to measure it is a square box twenty feet every way. Its contents and their arrangement will be most easily understood by you by a diagram

letting it hang down. The room is rented  
on scientific principles and is  
most comfortable. Now I shall  
take in detail the daily routine  
and tell you something about it.  
First then my servant - Libbard - wakes  
me at 6 a.m. Then I get up and  
dress, shaving with cold water as we are  
allowed no luxuries unless at our own  
expense and I have not got a spirit  
lamp or kettle. Then comes drill from  
4 to 8. Next we go to breakfast and  
you see, we are properly hungry.  
at breakfast we can order what we  
want, but there is no porridge. The  
general thing is "Bacon & eggs, Sir, sausage  
or fish, Sir?" "Tea or Coffee Sir?" Then  
at 9 a.m. to 9.55 we go to Hospital.  
The Surgeons on Probation are divided into  
two sections viz: A & B. the former

being medical & the latter surgical. I am  
at present on the medical side. Surgeon  
Major Cherry being Surgeon of ~~the~~ this division  
here we go round our wards and see  
the patients, sign diet sheets, write  
books, etc. I think it would be  
a good rule which might be introduced  
into the M.S. regulations "If a  
Surgeon on Probation sees a piece  
of paper in the wards or elsewhere  
he shall sign his name in full  
on it." Everything is signed and  
counter signed. at present I have  
not a word of my own as we  
have very few sick so I share with  
a man "Care". About 4<sup>th</sup> unit  
however H.M.S. 'Lrapis' is to arrive  
from Burma, India & Egypt with  
sick & wounded & the number of about  
350, so we shall then be very  
busy and I shall get a ward



Thus you see the room is not  
 about in is not very much. The  
 walls are plain plaster and in  
 some places much discoloured. There  
 are three nails for hanging clothes on.  
 There is no gas but I have got a  
 candle and I make it stand anywhere  
 by emptying some of its melted grease  
 on to a table chair or anything else  
 and sticking the candle in this and

R. V. Hoop =

Int-ly.

Hampton

11-4-86

Dear Father

Many thanks to you & the other correspondents for letters and news. I write just now in the smoke room of the mess block. It is a hearty wet day and as a result the room is pretty well filled with S. O. P's (cuyons on probation) all smoking and talking. The room is not very large yet the other end has a very "mistical" appearance from the clouds of smoke. They are standing or lounging in chairs or on sofas

the mantel piece and an out let  
in the roof above the pass. There  
is ~~an~~ ventilating shaft behind my  
room & opens into my room by  
a door, and the fire has a special  
inlet for itself. The other day  
I lighted the fire and at once  
all these openings became inlets  
and raised such a hurricane in  
my room that I believe if I had  
not had on my boots I would  
have been drawn up the chimney.  
I don't care how ~~if~~ it freezes now  
I'm not going to light that fire  
again. I am allowed 29 lbs of  
coal per diem with so much  
taken off for cooking purposes.  
My servant is laid up with cold  
so I have an other one just now  
a very obliging chap, but no use,  
especially in folding clothes.

Tell Filly I shall return for 'Pomola'

when I have read it. I do not want  
an other pair of boots, but I much  
wished Mother to send me any old  
boots I might wear out, as I am  
allowed to wear them here at drill  
but will not be allowed to do so  
at Aldershot. When I was at home  
I forgot to get measure for military  
jack boots and Wellingtons  
which I shall require by the  
beginning of August or rather end  
of July. You might ask Mother  
to find out from Miller & Smith  
if they can make these boots  
for me and also if I could send  
them the necessary measurements  
~~if~~ or if I shall have to get them  
here. I should prefer to get them  
from home if possible as their  
boots fit me so well.  
My bathing pants came all right  
and I hope mother understood about  
my shirts which I wish to button in

each with his pipe or cigar. Behind me is  
an Irishman lying on a chair by the  
fire sound asleep, his name is  
Browning and he probably was  
C. M. O (orderly medical officer) last night,  
and some one has pinned a sheet  
of note paper to him on which  
is written "Not dead but sleeping"  
He is a great character among us  
this Irishman. Last night after  
mass he proposed penny whist!  
and when told that nothing below  
1/ was allowed he said, "Faith  
then we'll play shilling whist and  
give eleven pence off for cash."  
My room is a model of ventilation  
there is an inlet in the shape of a  
large window, till recently the  
lock was off the door and that  
formed an inlet too, then there  
is an inlet near the ceiling above

front. Yesterday  
had lunch in  
and I spoke

Aithen & his wife  
the mess room  
& them and

said I would come to lunch  
today provided it was fair, but  
it rained so, I did not go.

On Friday I spoke to Chaumont  
and he was glad to see me and  
wishes to be remembered to you.  
Lately he has had bad sciatica  
and still walks rather lame.

Chaumont, Aithen, Smith, Laymore  
& the P. M. C. all walk lame, it  
seems to be the rule here rather  
than the exception among the seniors  
to walk lame.

I have got my lamp into working  
order now, and I shall give the  
'Lectoman' to Aithen on the  
first opportunity. I wish you  
could give me an audience

"We're! The Queen." Then Moore got up and said "Gentlemen! The Queen." Then the guests and all the S.O.D.s repeat "The Queen" and the parson says "God bless her." Then we all drink - sit down. Then the wine goes round again and then all S.O.D.s are allowed to go and smoke.

We get all papers here so you need not send me "The Lancet" especially as I usually have to pay 3' for it when you send it.

H. M. P. Corapis arrived on 6<sup>th</sup> inst. and 400 invalids arrived in her. They disembarked at Port-mouth and came here by train. Waffans of C & T corps (commissioned & transport corps) met them at Rethy

Station & they were conveyed here. It was awfully well managed & if you had not seen them on the road you would never have known that anything was going on. What a mixture! Some from India, Egypt, Cyprus, Malta etc. all kinds of refinements and with their bronzed skins & great cork helmets they looked very queer. The drill at in the morning is rare fun though some men object to exercise on an empty stomach and almost every morning one or two become faint & have to fall out. Every morning after we have fallen in and answered the roll call we are inspected by Surg. Maj. Lewis a great fat-faced man. Of course there is a dead silence while we all stand at attention while Lewis & his Adjutant Ross go round & look

survey map (reduced) of this quarter  
as there is no getting anything here  
and I will not likely be up  
in London for some time  
yet.

Wednesday was a guest night  
at mess. This means that  
we have an extra good menu  
with fruit etc., that we sit till  
10 P.M. instead of 9.30 or so and  
that we drink the Queen's health.  
The table looked very nice and  
the few evening dresses of the guests  
rather showed off the uniforms.  
After the wine had been round  
once Surgeon Major Ferris  
who is our mess president for  
the week rose and looking  
across the room to Surgeon  
Morse ~~and said~~ who is this  
weeks vice president said:-

you all over from top to  
 to first in front and  
 then behind. Then as they  
 go round you hear Morris' voice  
 growling out this kind of thing  
 "Don't look at me sir! Eyes front!"  
 "Now then — keep your hands steady!"  
 "Why the — haven't you shaved  
 this morning sir, I see! You  
 must find time! I'd time!"  
 "Queen's orders do not allow you  
 to shave your upper lip, sir, don't  
 do it again." — sir, why —  
 haven't you got that collar  
 altered, — had fit, go to your  
 tailor and get that sorted immed-  
 -iately." And so on he goes away  
 down the line & back again

all at home & Birroch and  
believe me

Your affectionate son

David No. 21  
S. O. P.

P.S. Hope I shall hear from you soon  
and shall receive a good long  
letter giving me lots of little chat  
as well as big news. I hope  
you are having better weather  
than we are here. It is very  
cold here in the morning yet, and  
the sergeant instructor thinks  
nothing of putting us into attitudes  
to which the most difficult in the  
Mikado are easy, and leaving  
us there till we are quite stiff and  
nearly frozen. When the order  
comes to 'Quick March' or  
'March time' the men set about  
to tramp as if they were paid

by the fierceness with which they  
tramp down the gravel.

D. M. G.

objecting to this that is the next thing.  
I have put blanks for the non-  
-Sunday-school words he uses.  
His words like those of Bert Harts  
"Bill Nye" in the "Heavenly Chimes"  
are "frequent & painful and  
free." Now I have given you  
a good record so will shut up  
in case I frighten you. I am  
fitting in to the regular routine  
here and will soon think you  
know as much about it as  
I do. so if you wish to know  
about any special point  
just ask me and I will  
tell you what I know. I  
have still to give you a description  
of the place but that I think  
will form the subject of an  
other letter. Give my love

R. V. Hosp.

Lat-hup.

Dec 15.

18. 11. 86

Dear Mother

Many thanks by me and  
others for letters. They are very  
acceptable here. This is so different  
from Edinburgh. In Edinburgh  
there were so many from Dundee  
that I constantly heard of  
it & even though I did not get  
a letter from home I still  
got the latest news. Here  
however I never hear of Dundee  
though I am constantly reminded  
of it in two ways, namely

time since I went away. Well I  
feel so too. I feel as if I had  
been quite accustomed to this sort  
of life and it all comes so  
natural to me, even getting up  
at 6 a.m. to drill, which by  
the bye I like immensely. The  
consequence of this is that I  
think nothing of going to bed  
at 10 P.M. and think it very  
late if I sit up till 11 P.M.  
What would Luis say to  
this?

On Tuesday we turned out to drill  
I find it raining hard. S.M.  
Paris did not turn up at once  
so we all collected in one of  
the porches & waited for half an  
hour and then Paris turned up

and ordered the 'dismiss' & he  
sounded.

At parade every morning we are  
inspected but we have had three  
special inspections & see that  
our uniforms are all right.

The first parade was in our  
patrol jackets with cross belts.  
The next was in mess uniform  
and the last was on Wednesday  
morning in overcoats. As good  
luck would have it, it rained,  
a hearty cold wet, morning,  
and jolly glad we were to  
have on our great coats, because  
great coats are never allowed  
on parade unless specially  
ordered. Then ~~we~~ we were  
all carefully gone over, first  
with capes & then without them  
and the majority of us got

by Kutter & Lane at breakfast, & lunch  
& sometimes at mess when we  
have "Pounding de Marmalade,"  
and at night by the pillow slips  
& shubs which are all marked  
with the broad arrow and  
'Baxter Bros.' Shubs & pillow  
slips are provided here so I  
do not yet use my own.  
Sometime ago you asked about  
our meals, well we have  
breakfast at 8 a.m.: lunch  
at 2 and mess at 4.30. —  
Now before I go further I shall  
look over this weeks letters  
again and see if anything calls  
for remarks. I believe  
says she thinks it a fair

3

more or less sworn at, and  
then we had to take off our  
great coats & go on with our  
squad drill.

On Thursday the men of the A.T.C.  
paraded in marching order,  
I had never seen this before and  
it was really splendid.

Sam asks if I like the life here.  
Well, you bet, I do, just  
immensely but I shall like  
~~it~~ it better when I get my  
two stars. Our time is very  
well filled up, but we have  
the afternoon to read in and  
I intend to do this just now  
and get exercise, other than  
our daily drill, when I go

know we have a pier here  
about a couple or three hundred  
yards long projecting into  
Southampton Water and used  
for shipping stores, clothes, etc  
into small government steamers  
or smacks.

I am glad the Baxters party  
came off so well. I did not  
forget it was Mary Kuller's  
birth day but I suppose it  
is a little late now to wish her  
many happy returns.

I got your letter yesterday saying  
you had sent off the shirts,  
but they have not yet arrived  
though I have no doubt they  
will turn up all right on Monday.  
Letters are not delivered here

on Sunday. They will be a  
great blessing as we are  
getting extension exercises at  
drill just now and the  
~~starched~~ starched front of my shirt  
makes my "Lumpkin" bulge  
out horribly.

I have met Mr. Taffart here  
and have had several chats  
with him. He is last man  
for the I. M. S. and seems a  
very nice fellow.

Tell Father that I do not yet  
require instruments as I am  
not on the surgical side  
yet and really know  
little about it. The cost of  
a complete set is £5.5 but  
I do not require a complete  
set as I have some already

& Alderstot. Occasionally  
after mass we have music  
but this is irregular as there  
is a good deal of cards &  
billiards and this rather  
drains the music room, so  
for the last few nights I  
have gone back at once  
after mass & the center  
block (Hospital) and had  
a smoke in some fellow's  
rooms or just turned in to  
my own quarters.

Of course we have not  
bathing yet, though we  
have a swimming bath  
but in summer we shall  
bathe off the pier. You

that will do. If he wants  
to make me a present he  
can get me 'Laymore  
on Gunshot Injuries' as its  
price (3/6) is too high for  
my pay. It is published  
by Layman & Co.

I had much rather not enter  
into details of money matters  
in my letters but will keep  
that till I get home ~~from~~ on  
leave, unless I require more  
from home which I think  
is improbable until I require  
more uniform.

We have a large chapel here  
which is used for all  
denominations as follows

Then behind come the Surgeons  
& then S.O.P.s & then the men  
of the A.H.C. & lastly the men  
of C & T corps. On the other  
side of the pit sit other men  
non-coms & their wives & families.  
The gallery is taken up with the  
patients. The patients are  
not of course in uniform  
but are in hospital dress  
which consists of loose  
blue trousers & coat or gown  
and blue night caps.

The service is fine & short,  
and lasts an hour.

~~But~~ This week I intend to take  
some photos & shall send  
them to you soon. There

is a photographic room in  
connection with the Hospital  
and tomorrow I intend to  
ask Surg. Gen. Laupman  
for permission to use it.  
He is an awfully nice old  
boy with about half a dozen  
medals and I think I have  
only to ask permission to  
use the room & get consent  
at once.

Love to all at home & Buwioch

I am

dear Mother

Your affectionate son

David M. Greig

P.S. Write soon & ask Father  
to do so too.

Roman Cath: 8 a.m.

Ch: of England 10.40 a.m.

Wesleyans 1.30 P.M.

Presbyterian 2.30 P.M.

As yet I have only been to  
the English service as the  
others are at unsuitable times.  
The church has a place where  
the minister walks about in  
at one end and then there  
is a large pit and galleries  
three quarters round.

In the front seat sits the

P.M.O. & A.G. (adjutant. General)  
and their wives & families.

Then comes Surg. Maj. Godwin  
& family with Faris & his  
aid-de-camp, Surgeon Rose.

4.

Lydia P. S. It is raining heavy  
today which is rather a nuisance  
as it prevents a walk. The last  
few days have made a great  
difference here and we get  
lots of Crows, wood anemones,  
wild strawberries and so on.  
By the bye the C & T corps  
always put me in mind of  
the S & T club in the Rutherford.  
I shall be very glad if you  
or any one who writes will  
ask questions as it gives me  
an idea what to speak about  
and is a great help in making  
up a letter at the end of the  
week.

I enclose a menu of yesterday

The best dish is "Currie à l'Indienne" made of chopped meat, rice & chutney. The next best is "Bécasse à l'Écossaise" which is simply a Rowley-powley pudding without the old Tom Cat. I have written this letter in my own quarters and as they are not too well lighted I am afraid I have not stuck to the lines very well but I have no doubt you will easily make it out.

Your affect: son  
David M. Greig.

R. V. Hospital

Net-ley

H auto.

2.5.86

My dear Father,

Many thanks for your letter and paper. I canis' letter this week was capital, and you might tell her I wish she would send Wychant some of 'Il Jacobi' photos, he would be so pleased to have them. When Arthur was 'blithorin' 'Scotch' W<sup>m</sup> Arthur seemed to understand only a little but every now & then Arthur explained what was going on to the 'nurses'. At miss now I have got beside

an eyeglass and speaking English.  
They are all very nice fellows  
and we have great fun a mess.  
No professional or political  
subjects are allowed to be  
discussed at mess, but we  
always find something to  
talk about.

Prof. Buchanan told me he  
met you at some operation  
lately.

I have not yet been to see  
"low muttering delirium" as  
de Chaumont is called, as I  
have been so busy but I will  
do so some day soon -  
You might let me know who  
succeeded Anderson in the poor  
house job.

When I was in London Raynold  
Karr & Co told me I could easily  
get high boots from home by  
sending the enclosed measure.  
You might send along this  
measure to Miller & Smith  
and ask if that will do.

If it will do tell them to  
copy it into their books and  
keep it till I order them to  
make me what I want.

I will be sending you some photos  
soon and as I don't get the  
plates for nothing I will charge  
you 6" for every negative,  
copies of which I will send you.  
Now instead of doing this  
directly I wish you would

the Scotch contingent. There are mostly  
Aberdeen men, and the ones I sit  
beside are all for the home service.  
There is Scott who has a huge red  
moustache but otherwise looks rather  
insignificant. Then there is Horie  
a man whom you examined at  
Aberdeen and who took Bentham's  
place at ~~the~~ under Asylum when  
they were changing to Liff. Then  
there is Davidson who graduated  
at Abd: but comes from Hawit-  
ies. Then Fowler who speaks with  
a slow Irish Accent, graduated  
in Aberdeen but comes from  
St. Helena. Then lastly Will  
a hard Aberdonian who tries  
to hide his accent by covering

2

pay Miss Peatt Tobaccorist  
85 Nitrojat the sum of 6/4 for  
Tobacco which she sent me  
the other day and in exchange  
I will send you 13 photos. I  
will not count bad photos.  
Now I do not write this as  
a joke but in earnest and  
I wish you to say distinctly  
whether you will agree to this  
plan or not.

Now for the news of the week.  
Monday being one of the days before  
my last letter I told you about  
my going to the Abbey.  
On Wednesday W. M. S. Kimalaya  
arrived with 163 invalid non-  
coms: and 8 officers and I

of us went to a fancy ball  
in Southampton, but I did  
not go.

On Saturday morning I turned  
out at 6.15 a.m. & tried to take  
some photos.

The morning I got up at 6 &  
went & had a fine hot bath  
which I need frequently as the  
blue comes off my serge  
coveralls & in a few days I  
am all black & blue. In  
the afternoon I walked along  
with Scott & Hosie to Hamble  
a pretty little village about  
3 miles from here.  
Along with this letter I send  
some photos.

1. Here is one who is a Staff Sergeant  
& I send it to you & let you see  
the uniform the M. S. Staff  
Sergeant's wear.

2. There are some different views  
& prints of the skull I  
have photographed for  
Layman. It is a case of  
suicide where the bullet  
came from the mouth. The  
chan hole in the internal  
table & the raising & splintering  
of the external table is well  
seen.

These should be put in the  
album.

3. Then I send you one (not a good  
print) of our cooking staff.  
It is taken from a negative

saw over 100 of them march into  
hospital with their big coats and  
great cork helmets on. What a  
row they made marching along  
the corridor past my quarters.  
On Thursday 85 invalids  
arrived by H.M.S. Malabar.  
This makes 506 admissions  
since 19<sup>th</sup> ~~inst~~ ult. It

rained nearly all drill on  
Thursday & made it far  
from pleasant. On Friday  
we got sized at drill and  
I came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 7<sup>th</sup> rank

i.e.: there are 8 men taller than  
I am, the tallest being an  
Irish man called Fook who  
is 6 ft 5 inches.

On Friday night a great many

3

which I found in the studio.  
The man with the cross belt-  
is Luyson Moffitt who was  
orderly officer on duty that-  
day. I shall send you a  
better print of this brand type.

3. I send you a bad print of  
part of the hospital. I have  
marked numbers on it which  
mean :-

1. = Window opposite which  
my quarters are. A  
corridor intervenes between  
my quarters and this window.
- 2 = The square we drill in. The  
square is covered with coarse  
gravel which is very difficult  
to walk on.

read Hygiene instead.

The Hospital is a large building of brick and at one place is the foundation stone laid by the Queen in 53 but the building was not really begun till some time later I think '66 or so. I don't know how many wards there are in it but there must be a great many as each ward only holds 10 patients. Each man has his regulation breathing space (650 cub. ft) and superficial area. I have six cases just now and have discharged 4 or 5 already. All cases are tropical ones

by spleen and liver, fever, acute anaemia dysentery & so on. Each ward is a separate hospital as regards the S.O.B. and every S.O.B. has his orderly under him who has to do everything he is told. The nurses here are called 'sisters' & I have had to apologise several times for calling them 'nurses'. When outside, they wear grey cloak, low grey bonnet and grey veils & grey dresses. I don't think there are any of Miss Dr. Williams' style here now, as the nurses are discussed at mess and we

3 = Clock tower

4 = road leading to pier

5 = Adjutant General's office  
behind which is the O. M. O's  
Office.

My corridor & the one above are  
full of medical wards.

This only shows a very small  
bit of the front which is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile  
in length.

Monday morning  
3<sup>rd</sup> May.

I had not time to finish this  
yesterday though I came right  
down from mess & do so  
but my room felt so cold when  
I got off my uniform that I  
turned into bed about 9.30 and

would soon find out what kind of women they are. About the general arrangements I have nothing to do and all I know about that is in the A.M.S. regulations. I told you before that we were divided into two sections and the section I am in do medical work in the wards while the other section do microscope and laboratory work. At the end of this month the two sections change and the one I am in then pass to the Surgical division of the Hospital and in addition

have work in the pathological  
and hygienic laboratories.  
Now I think I have given  
you a long enough record  
for the present. Thank Lo  
for his letter & tell him I  
shall write soon. Love  
to all.

I am

your affectionate son  
David M. Greig

R. V. Hoop.

Det-ly

Hauts

9-5-86

My dear Father,

I have just been  
squaring my accounts and find  
that I have been able to save  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  <sup>last</sup> month off my pay.  
This month I shall save about  
£1 more than this. Our mess  
here is one of the cheapest in the  
service. My wine bill for  
last month came to the  
enormous sum of 1/- which  
is spent in drinking "The Queen"  
on festive nights. This month

as it was rather extra work.  
I went on duty at 3 P.M. by going  
to the C.M.C.'s room & relieving  
Surgeon Major who had been  
on duty since 9 A.M. that morning.  
The C.M.C. is not allowed to leave  
his room all the time he is on  
duty unless called away on  
duty e.g. in case of accident,  
sudden illness etc. and to go on  
his rounds.

At the time 4.30 P.M. my sergeant  
came for me and we went  
round all the wards in the  
hospital. He walks some yards  
in front of me and opens the  
ward doors and shouts in  
"Orderly Officer" or rather

"O'd'ly Off'c'r" then the patients  
stand up and as I pass I  
look in and shout "Plns"  
which stands for "Any Complaints".  
Then the men answer "None Sir"  
or "Yes Sir" as the case may be.  
This is done all round the wards,  
and then I got back to my  
own room (C.M.C.'s room I mean).  
Then at 6 I made my own visit  
to my own ward. Then I went  
and inspected the lavatories.  
Then soon after 6.30 I went  
to the guard room and inspected  
the night duty party. When I went  
in the sergeant on duty called  
the men to attention. Then I  
went along and inspected them.

"The Lum" has been drunk already  
at a cost of 10<sup>¢</sup> as regards myself  
so that I shall save 2<sup>¢</sup> on  
that score this month as she  
is never drunk more than once  
a month.

There has been very little going  
on this week so I have little  
news to tell you. You will  
notice the death of poor Surgeon  
Mayor Lewis, who was Atkins's  
assistant. He died of pneumonia.  
On ~~Wednesday~~<sup>Friday</sup> I was C.M.B.  
(ordrly medical officer) for the day.  
As I don't think I have told you  
the C.M.B.'s duties I may as well  
give you an account of what  
I did on ~~Wednesday~~<sup>Friday</sup> especially

I wish you could have seen me,  
in full parade uniform, swaggering  
along before them once standing  
at attention with their side arms  
and greatcoats and picking faults  
with them for not being properly  
brushed, etc. Then it looked  
very extraordinary & see them  
obey at once when I say out  
"Right turn" & "Dismiss." I have  
not yet got accustomed & seeing  
so many men obey me at once  
when I shout at them.  
Then after inspecting the lavatories  
in the guard room I went  
to dress for mess. I found  
my servant had not brought  
my soap nor brushes from my

him for neglect of duty. Of course I was a few minutes late for mess and had to apologise to the president before going to my seat. The C. M. C. wears his shell jacket buttoned up at mess; and when I was going back to my seat near the door I heard one of the Irish men say out "I say, Nap, (I go by the name of Napoleon you know) has it taken you all this time to get your jacket buttoned." I had to leave mess at 8.30 & go round with Corporal of the Guard & see "Lights out." All the lights were

not out and I have no doubt the ward master in charge would suffer next day for his neglect. At 10.15 I inspected the guard, special orderlies and sentries. You know I have got my servant changed some time ago as the first one went sick, and the present one is not nearly so good as the last one as he is new to the business. Well when I got back to the C. M. C. room I found my night things were not up, so I sent the Corp. of the guard along to send up my servant to me. I wish you had seen him

quarters & the C.M.C. room. By  
this time it was past 7 and  
I had to hurry to my quarters  
and wash there & then get to  
~~C.M.C. room~~ dress. Of course  
this put me in a proper rage  
as it made me late for  
mess, though that is unimportant  
as the C.M.C. is allowed to be  
late. Well just as I had washed  
& got into my parade dress  
before going up to C.M.C. room  
to get into mess uniform, in  
comes my servant. Well I  
at once started remonstrating  
with him, à la Lyson Mayor  
Paris, for his neglect and  
finished by threatening to report

when he came up. He had been  
asleep for about an hour and  
looked the picture of sleepiness  
standing to attention before me  
with his "tozy" head, eyes half open,  
and his great coat pulled on to  
hide the fact that he had not  
put anything else on. I gave  
him a good round of the fur  
homer and sent him for my  
things. Then he forgot soap and  
had to go back for it. When  
homer he brought a shirt  
instead of a towel I had to  
lay out right and order him  
off to the barrack room to  
his bed. Then I got into

till 6 a.m.: when I had to get  
up again for the day. I found  
Capt. Macdonald rather weaker,  
and he died at 12.30 on Saturday  
forenoon. I was very much  
struck with the exceedingly  
attentive manner his servant  
looked after him. I never saw  
so attentive a nurse as he made;  
he stood at his master's side  
all night and seemed to know  
at once what he wanted without  
being asked.

At 7.40 I had to inspect the  
orderlies for the day, and at  
8 a.m. I inspected the breakfast  
& rations.

At 9 I was relieved by Surgeon

Tutkell. Then I had my ward  
duties to do and when I finished  
these for the forenoon I turned in  
I had a sleep till about 3 in  
the afternoon.

Saturday's departmental orders,  
ordered us into mourning for  
Surgeon Maj. Lewis so we all go  
about with the black band  
just now.

When I was C.M.C. I thought  
I would have had time to  
write to Lo and Janie  
but you see I was so busy  
that I did not manage it.  
I must write to Janie  
to congratulate her on  
attaining her majority and

my pyjamas and sat down  
for a smoke. Then almost  
immediately I was called & see  
a Capt. Macdonald, 1<sup>st</sup> Lincoln  
who came home on 19<sup>th</sup> April  
from India. The orderly turned  
in a hurry & I had to tumble at-  
once into uniform. It was a  
case of tropical abscess of hair  
and when ever I got my hand  
on his pulse I saw he was  
dying of exhaustion with some  
peritonitis. I at once <sup>suit</sup> an  
orderly for my senior on duty  
but he could do nothing.  
I stayed with him till four in  
the morning when he was much  
easier and I left & turned in

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wish her many happy returns.  
I was much delighted with the  
photos she sent me. They  
are very good.

I regret I sent you my working  
bell etc. You see when I tied  
up my letter I meant to  
enclose the measure for boots  
~~but~~ left it out and then  
I sent it in an envelope  
which was untied & he  
empty.

He are likely to have more  
troops in here in a day or  
two. One of my patients leaves  
tomorrow, being invalided  
from the service, so I shall  
have an empty bed for any

drill till after Lewis' hurried.  
The funeral of course will be  
a military one but I do  
not know whether we will  
have a parade for it or not.

Of course all the M. S. C. will  
turn out & perhaps others.

(M. S. C. = military staff corps, -  
late A. H. C.).

Today I got a Scotsman from  
you with account of the opening  
of exhibition in Edinburgh  
in it, but I have not had  
time to read it yet.

Now I think I have spent  
enough ink for one day  
so I will shut up. I

shall expect letters from home in  
a day or two as I rarely  
get them on Monday unless  
posted on Saturday in  
Dundee.

Love & all.

I am

your affect. son  
David M. Grig

new case.

Monday Morning.

As usual I had not time to finish my letter yesterday.

Scott Hosie came in for me and we went to Haverhill crossed the river <sup>by the ferry</sup> and went along the shore a bit. It was very hot. Just-like one of those close sultry days you sometimes get in Scotland in the beginning of August. After we got along the shore a bit we lay down and sweated till 5 o'clock when we walked home in time to pay our evening visit and dress for mess.

Today it is quite gloomy and cold. We are & have no

R. V. Hosp.

Hatley.

16.5.86

My dear Helly,

I am sorry you thought your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> ultimo was not appreciated (there are two "p" in this word) as that was not the case. All your letters are appreciated but if carefully worded (never mind the writing) they are more appreciated than if they are written in an aphasic manner. Your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> inst was delightful, in fact I have been rather

mouth and chin. Also I send  
you a better print of the cook-  
-ing staff. The female is the  
housekeeper of the mess block.  
After I had finished these photos  
a Staff Sergeant who also  
takes photos came in and  
I got him to photograph  
Scott Hosie & myself in a  
group. I meant to print  
one of these today & send it  
by air but the weather is  
simply beastly and it can't  
be done today. However I  
will send it later on.  
These photos are taken in our  
'jumpers' (working coats) so there  
is no hair on the scene.

There are no other questions to  
answer in your letter or none in  
I amis except that Scott is  
an Abandonian. When Scott  
Hosie & I sit together at mess  
we often astonish our neighbours  
by talking Scotch. One of  
the Irish men asked me if  
it was a fact that all the  
fields round ~~the~~ under were  
laid out in Lent turnips to  
make Marmalade of. This  
man thinks he knows Scotch  
because he can say "Cockie-  
-lukie & Haggis" & he thinks  
that these and partridge constitute  
the menu of all Scotchmen.

more lucky this week than usual  
as regards correspondence  
and papers. You asked for  
my photo. Well I have not got  
it taken yet but the other  
day I was trying some new  
plates by photographing Scott  
and Hossie and Scott  
suggested I should take his  
place which I did after  
telling him how to remove the  
cap. I send you the results.  
In one there are Hossie and  
myself and in the other Hossie  
and Scott. Notice the way  
the freckles have come out  
on Scott's face. Scott's huge  
moustache rather shades his

Father asks in his letter as rather  
on the envelope what I sent  
two stamps for. Well I sent  
them by mistake. I took them  
up to the O. N. C. room on  
Friday week & put on some  
letters I intended to write  
but as the letters were not  
written the stamps were not  
used and were put in an  
envelope for safety.

There is a very tall Irishman  
here called Fook (6 ft 8 inches).  
Well he was in Southampton  
the other day and some of  
the mess were there too and for  
a joke they hired a little boy  
to go and walk through South

to attend Lewis' funeral. There  
were some other high wells but  
I did not know who they were.

Then we got into marching order  
and paraded at 2:30 P.M.

The hymn "marching order" refers  
to our dress as Father will  
tell you. Then most of us went  
into the Chapel. Here we stood  
for a good while, while the organ  
played, and then the coffin  
was carried in by 4 sergeants  
of the M.S. Corps. The Coffin  
was covered with wreaths  
and flowers and on the top of  
all was the sword and  
belt and cocked hat. When

it was carried in it was preceded  
by the choir and followed by  
Mrs Lewis and her daughter &  
lots of mourners. Just behind  
the coffin came a sergeant who  
carried the deceased's sword  
& hat & laid them on the  
coffin whenever it was set  
down in the front part of  
the chapel.

After a short service the  
coffin was carried out  
again to the front door  
and placed on a gun  
carriage and covered with  
the Union Jack. The gun  
carriage was drawn by

Ampton beside him. I believe  
it was most comical to  
see the contrast, and I have  
it made every body on the  
street stare.

I wish you would get Mother  
to send me a book of Scotch  
songs as I cannot get such  
a thing here at all.

On Monday Scott & I walked into  
Southampton and came back  
by train from Woolston.

On Tuesday we had lectures  
etc as usual but no lecture  
between 1 & 2 P.M. We met  
and had lunch. At lunch  
were Mr. Kuman and the  
Dr. G. (Crawford) who had come

four horses of the C & T corps.  
Then the carriage followed by  
the chief mourners & preceded  
by our Chaplain & the bishop  
started for the cemetery. It  
went through two long ranks  
of soldiers & then when it  
had passed them all they all  
fell in in open order behind.  
The order of the procession  
was this; Chaplain & Bishop  
Coffin on gun-carriage drawn  
by horses of C & T. corps  
& flanked by 4 serjeants of  
M. S. Corps: then came  
chief mourners: then 180 men  
of M. S. Corps: then a few

this week viz: on Friday. I  
told you we had all 8 mar-  
mouring for Lewis, by P.M.G.'s  
orders, with on Friday morning  
didn't I fall in on parade  
without this black band on.  
So old Paris jumped on me  
and I had to report myself  
to him or his adjutant in  
marching order with black band  
on before breakfast. Of  
course I blackjacketed my  
servant for it and he has not  
left it off again since. That  
is the great advantage of having  
a manservant - for if anything  
goes wrong you can swear  
at him ad lib: and as he

is a soldier he dare not reply  
or he may be severely punished  
for it.

The hospital is getting empty  
again now as a good many  
have been invalided from  
the service & some have returned  
to their regiments. In a few  
days H.M.S. Emma will  
arrive from India via the  
Cape with over 200 invalids  
and we will get some new  
cases.

On ~~Thursday~~ <sup>the body of</sup> Thursday, Capt. Macdonald  
whom I attended was conveyed  
to the station with military  
honours. I did not see the  
procession as I was in

men of Argyll & Luthers Land  
Highlanders, & Rifles Brigade,  
~~C & T Corps~~ who are acting as  
General Military Police here just  
now & a few men of C & T  
corps on duty here. Then  
came the S.O.D.s (ourselves) and  
lastly the senior officers, then  
some civilians.

Then there was a short service  
at the grave & then we all  
came home.

We had no drill on Monday  
or Tuesday and on Wednesday  
& Thursday mornings it rained  
so hard that we had no drill  
on these days either. So we  
have only had drill once

4

my ward at the time. It was  
a heavy day and the men  
paraded in their great-coats.  
I am got a photo of some  
of the men of the R. S. Corps  
from one of our staff Sgt's  
and will send it by air. The  
men are not in full marching  
order as they only have their  
water bottles but the Sgt  
is in full marching order  
with his water bottle, haversack  
etc. You will see the style  
of dress they wear. You might  
put it in the album beside  
my photos.

Now I think it is time to stop  
so I must shut up

With love & all

I am

your affect brother  
David M. Grig.

M. S.

O.S. Tell Father I have not got  
Layman's book as I can't  
afford it.

R. V. Hospital  
H. et. ley  
Dante.

23.V.86

My dear Father,

I enclose some  
photos which I shall describe  
before beginning my letter.  
1. Instantaneous photograph  
of H.M.S. Southampton as  
she lies off H. et. ley. This  
photo was taken in bright  
sunshine & the white dots on  
the water on the left side  
of the picture is the glitter of  
the sun on the water.

to the waist, showing atrophied  
left deltoid from disuse  
after fibrous ankylosis of  
left shoulder. Left arm  
also atrophied.

5<sup>th</sup> Photograph of same patient  
who is a Lance Corp<sup>s</sup> in  
1<sup>st</sup> East-London Regt. He is  
in Hospital dress & it was  
to show you this that I  
photographed him. I  
have coloured one and  
this will perhaps give you  
a better idea of what the  
man looks like.

Now for letters.

I received Kelly's letter on  
Tuesday afternoon after lunch.

I read it going to my quarters  
and got Peatt to walk along  
side me and do the saluting.  
Saluting is a perfect nuisance  
there are so many soldiers  
about. In mufti I am  
hardly anybody but in  
uniform I am a big boss  
whom all soldiers & patients  
must salute.

I am sorry I hear Grand-  
mother has been ill but  
I hope she is all right now.  
Kelly's letter was most en-  
joyable.

Mother's letter I have already  
acknowledged. I do not  
want any more clothes just

The "Northampton" has taken the place of the "Victor" & is one of the guardships of the Solent. She lies off our Hospital always except when the Queen is at Osborne when she lies off the Isle of Wight.

2<sup>nd</sup> Hosie Scott & myself.

I sent you one of these before but this is a much better print.

3<sup>rd</sup> Scott & Hosie. Scott has moved slightly. This was taken at their request not at mine as I hate these showy theatrical photographs.

4. One of our patients stripped

now as <sup>2</sup>in fact I have  
rather too many already.  
When I get my full dress  
uniform I will require  
to get a mufli suit too  
as the one I have is rather  
shabby and not exactly  
the correct cut. We have  
been having lots of rain  
and wind lately but not  
cold enough weather to require  
a fur. Some evenings have  
been very close & hot. I  
must thank you very  
much for your present  
it was very acceptable  
though not exactly necessary.  
I am sorry to hear that

trouble of obtaining leave, but  
later on I will do it on  
some Saturday afternoon.  
You talk of cheap trips as if  
I was a civilian. When we  
came here we were told  
not to do any thing to bring  
~~ourselves~~ <sup>ourselves</sup> into connection with  
the soldier and as examples  
we were told to avoid bars,  
cheap trips, travelling 3<sup>rd</sup> class  
- so on. Any trip to London  
for me is of course a  
cheaper trip than it would  
be for a civilian because  
I travel with an officer's  
ticket which is cheaper than

the ordinary civilian's. Of course  
we must travel 1<sup>st</sup> class.  
There is no such thing as an  
officer's 2<sup>nd</sup> class ticket.  
Tell mother not to send me  
more than she can help  
as I have too much already  
& I think I shall send  
some extra clothes, books, etc,  
home when I have here  
and you can send them to  
me only as I require them.  
Here I was interrupted by Scott  
coming in and taking me up  
to lunch.  
I shall buy some photos of  
Netley & neighbourhood for you  
when I am in Southampton.

Cesar Contreras has been ill.  
What is wrong with him?  
Lungs all right? Has Alex.  
gone back yet?  
In your last letter you  
said you were stumped  
by a man having a complaint  
when you were C. N. C. at  
Chatham. Now, complaints  
are quite common and in  
such case you send your  
N. C. C. (now com. officer) to see that  
it is rectified at once, and  
unless very trivial you  
report it to the C. N. C. in  
your report next morning.  
The difficulty in going to  
the Land of Right is the

Last night after mess I went into the smoking room and the fellows insisted on my singing them a Scotch song so I gave them "Ja Thairshon". It was received with roars of applause and laughter and when I finished some of them seized hold of me and as I had no wish to be "shouldered" I had to make a bolt for it. This afternoon I went into the smoking room again and Conmyan was at the piano. Whenever he saw me he began to play "Ja Thairshon".

was great consideration on  
Cherry's part so Leversley  
was highly delighted ~~when~~ and  
he replied "Good morning Sir".  
Then Cherry said "Warm morning  
this. Mr. Leversley". Leversley  
was still more delighted and  
he answered "Yes Sir. Very warm  
morning" & which Cherry at  
once added in a most  
emphatic manner "Then  
why the H--- don't you have  
your windows open?"  
The mess has got hold of this  
and you bet it makes the  
most of it.  
On Monday we got a few

patients who arrived in N.M.S.  
'Tyne'. I got one from  
Jamaica, a good case of  
Aortic stenosis.  
I am getting better now at  
blackguarding the men for  
any little fault - I get  
lots of practice on my servant-  
but the other day I was rather  
taken aback. I was speaking  
to a young fellow who has  
not been over a year in  
the service when I noticed some  
hair on his chin. At once  
I said in my official voice.  
"Why are you not shaved?"  
"I can't Sir" said he. "Can't?"  
said I, "why can't you?"

So I left the room at once  
amid cries of "Hooray! Hooray!  
Napoleon! Hooray for you —!"  
and so on. One of them  
came after me & wanted  
to drag me back, but I  
put on a solemn look and  
said; "In Scotland I am not  
allowed to whistle on Sunday  
for less to sing." He at once  
bowed my pardon & left.  
So I got off.

Brigade Surgeon Cherry has  
just been promoted from  
Surgeon Major. The other  
day he went into Leersley's  
ward & said "Good morning,  
Mr. Leersley." Of course this

"I have sir I can't." "Answer my question" said I "Why can't you." "I have sir", said he, "I never tried." It was a severe temptation to laugh. On Wednesday we all had to trot out our vaccination marks or be re-vaccinated. I passed but I think I shall get re-vaccinated before going on foreign service.

Now I am absolutely finished because I have no more news of any kind.

I suppose Lella & May will be with the girls when you get this letter. Lella, if I

remember rightly is a great  
authority on Saint Paul;  
but I do not know what  
May's fort is. I wonder  
the girls did not insist on  
Minnie coming too. I  
wish I could be at Tay  
Street for a night it would  
be such fun. However  
I shall try to get north  
after Aldershot & if possible  
to get quarters in Scotland  
for a few months.

Love to all at home, including  
strangers,

I am

Your affectionate son  
David M. Grid

R. V. Hospital  
Hertley  
Hants

31<sup>st</sup> May / 86

My dear Father,

I was so busy yesterday that I was unable to write as usual, for though I might have begun my letter I would not have got it finished. Before I go any further I must say how delighted I was this morning to receive Mother's photo, I did not know her birthday was today and

in my last letter I spelt  
Chatham wrong and I  
remembered it just after  
I had closed the envelope.  
I should like to know what  
stories Lilla tells of me  
from Gala.

The letter you enclosed to  
me from London was  
simply a circular from  
a man wanting to sell a  
map or something. I am  
sorry that any of my stories  
should have given you the  
idea that my seniors or  
others are not gentlemen.

Certainly if the term "gentlemen"  
is applied only to those using

moderate language, there are  
very few here who merit the  
term except the professors.  
In future I shall be more  
choicé in my stories.

Is Lo's case finished yet?  
How has Lord McLaren  
given judgment?

My news for this week is  
almost nil. On Monday  
I went into Southampton  
and got the enclosed photos  
at 1/- each; you know you  
said you wanted some of  
Hetley & night house hood.

I shall tell you about the  
photos in a little

I wish for very many, happy  
returns of the day. I think I  
may well expend  $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  tonight  
at mass on a glass of beer  
to drink for health in.

I have very little news this  
week but quite a big bundle  
of home letters to answer.  
Deanie's jolly long letter was  
very enjoyable but calls  
for no remark as there  
were no questions asked.  
Hosie is the same as was  
at one time under Porie  
in the Army here.

In Nell's letter she calls  
my attention to a mis-spelling  
and this reminds me that

I had a letter from Mary saying that they could not come down so I may try to get to Lansdown on Friday till Sunday. The ~~se~~ are however changing to the surgical wards and laboratories and so I may not be allowed off as have just now. On Wednesday I went into Southampton again and went to the Theatre to see John S. Clarke in "The Widow Hunt". It was great fun & I enjoyed it very much. Coming home

Saturday was held here as  
Queen's birthday and R.M.S.  
Northampton was decorated  
with any amount of flags  
and at midday gave us  
a salute from her guns.  
"The Queen" was drunk at  
mess in the evening.

Now that closes all my  
news so I must revert  
to the photos to make up  
my letter.

The book gives you some  
views of Southampton and  
night view. In the one  
of the hospital the monument  
to the right is the monument  
erected to the Medical men

who died in the Crimea.  
The 4 of Tutbury Abbey explain  
themselves by the printing on  
them.

Then I enclose 2 of Southampton  
& have written the names on  
the back. The one shows  
the Bar Gate which is the  
central point in the town.

The other shows part of the  
old wall of Southampton  
which overlooks the shore.

Then there are 3 of the ~~mess~~  
~~block~~ hospital with names  
on the back. The mess block  
is a separate building which  
contains the mess room  
and some of the officers' quarters

however it was very wet and  
I got wet to the skin. I  
was invited to ~~the~~ Chaumont's  
on Thursday but my clothes  
were so wet that I was  
unable to go, but went on  
Friday afternoon and called.  
There seems to be several of  
a family but as there were  
some friends there I don't  
know how many were  
Chaumonts. Miss de Chaumont  
was there too. Do you know her?  
After leaving Chaumont's I  
went & left a card on  
our Scotch Minister Mr.  
Paven, who used to be some-  
-where about Kesho.

The view is evidently taken from one of the windows of the hospital, as the walk from the hospital to the mess block lies among the trees which constitute the foreground of the picture.

The other photos give you an idea of the frontage of the hospital but can give you no idea of the depth of it. All the wards run back wards at right angles to the front part and then there are the quarters of N. Co.'s & men and married soldiers and

helmet more than naturally  
so as to show his face.

3<sup>rd</sup> View of my servant from  
behind showing canteen  
and knapsack.

4<sup>th</sup> Case of tetraplegia after  
sting of a scorpion. He  
is one of a foot regiment  
but I cannot remember  
which it ~~was~~ is.

I think these photos must  
stand in the place of a  
longer letter as I have  
no more news. Today  
I send off two pair of boots  
the mended. The new  
boots have been carelessly  
made as the part which

requires mending has never  
been mended. The other  
boots have succumbed to  
the drill. At the same  
time as you ~~order the~~ give  
in them to Miller & Smith  
you might order my  
military Jack boots and  
tell them to send them on  
as soon as possible. I  
shall get my own spurs.  
Now I think that is all  
except to say that the tin  
shirt with which the boots  
are packed is no use to me  
as it is too small. It may  
do for Lin.

lots of other buildings besides  
all behind the center block.  
Then come some of my  
own taking as follows:-

1<sup>st</sup> Four of myself. Two are  
platinotype and two are  
~~made~~ by the silver process.  
They represent me in my  
working dress.

2<sup>nd</sup> Three of my servant-  
"Purchase" front view.  
One of these is by the silver  
process. This shows you  
a soldier of the medical  
staff Corps in full  
marching order without  
blanket and ration.  
I made him tilt back his

4.

Love to all  
I am  
your affect - son  
— David M. Greig

O.P. I suppose you know  
Longmore is to be knighted.  
I must have my ~~the~~ marching  
boots as soon as possible as  
my only other pair are rather  
hard up.

Royal Viet: Hosp:

Hutley

Hanoi

6.6.86

My dear Father,

I was very much disappointed when on Thursday morning I found my application for leave was refused on the ground that <sup>the</sup> reason for asking leave was not of sufficient importance. I had planned to go to London on Friday afternoon and come back on Sunday night but this was knocked on the head.

they are not all right. The only pair of boots I have just now - marching boots - are very hard up and I hope the others will be returned soon so that I can send this pair home to get mended. Let Miller & Smith to keep my % separate from yours.

I have not got the book you ask for but I think it is behind some others in the book case.

The photos I send you are: -

- 1<sup>st</sup> Two of my servant. You can do whatever you like with them.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Two different groups of the Scotch contingent.

In one of these (not a good one) I have written the names of the men. All are Aberdeen graduates. The group in the open air is taken just outside the studio at the back of the hospital.


3<sup>rd</sup> One of my patients showing a skin disease (secondary). I wish you would send me a moderately sized album that I could put all my professional photographs in with a short history of the case. You could easily fit one in Valentines as I can't fit one here. I make no collection of non-professional

However I had a letter from Lo  
& I believe they will come  
down here on Wednesday  
& spend the afternoon with me.  
Of course this has stopped  
any chance of my seeing  
John Brown. Could you  
let me know how long he  
is to be in town? I might  
get him to come down to meet  
some night.

Glad I hear from Leanie that  
St Paul is dead & hurried;  
was there a p.m.?  
I hope that by this time Mother  
has ordered my Jack boots  
as I want them a little before  
the session ends in case

photos as I trust entirely  
by your keeping the best of  
what I send home.

I have now paid off in  
photos my tobacco  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  
have sent 3 additional, if  
you send me an album I  
could pay it in the same  
way.

I sent a photo. of this case  
of  Dr. McLehman in  
Edinburgh as he taught me  
these diseases very well  
and I got on well with  
him.

On Monday last the L.O.O.s  
changed divisions and I

~~two~~ two hours now 3 days a week  
I go to de Chaumont's laboratory  
where we have practical  
hygiene. On the other days  
for the same time we go to  
Austin's practical room and  
work at pathology specially  
drawing & measuring specimens.  
In the afternoons all this  
week except Saturday I  
have been busy so I have  
no news to tell you in regard  
to that. On Saturday our  
cricket team played against  
the 1st Marine Light Infantry  
& beat them. It was a  
capital match and I spent  
all the afternoon lying on

the grass & looking on.  
One of my patients is at  
present in the cells for  
insubordination and I have  
to go there to visit him. At  
present he is 'bung-fell' of  
complaints and trying hard  
to get me to think him too ill  
to be in prison.

The other day Longman was  
telling me gun shot injuries  
of the head & I told him  
about that patient of yours  
who had a bullet or piece  
of metal in his head. You  
remember he used to come  
regularly & get dressed &  
if you remember one

was transferred to the Surgical  
division and have a ward under  
the superintendence of Surgeon  
Moffitt. The M. O. (medical office)  
in charge of the division is  
Surgeon Major Godwin who  
you will see is well up in  
the Army list. Bye the bye  
you should get a recent  
Army list and you would  
see then with whom I  
came into contact.

Godwin is less rough than  
~~Chas~~ Bgdr; Surg: Cherry and  
would come nearer meeting  
your requirements of a  
"gentleman".

Using the forenoon for

<sup>3</sup>  
time he told you he had got-  
married again & his new  
wife could not dress it  
so well as the old one.  
Langmore said he remembered  
you having written on some  
cases you had in the Crimea.  
He was much interested in  
this case & asked me to  
ask you for particulars.  
You might give me as much  
as you can & state the  
reason you don't operate  
& whether you think the inner  
table of the skull pierced or  
not. Next time you get the  
man you might find out  
his name, rank, corps etc

where the wound was received  
& his subsequent history.  
& all you know of him.  
I think that is all the news  
I can give you just now  
so I shall shut up.

Love to all.

I am

your affect son

David M. Erig.

R.V. Hospital.  
Netley.

Hanto.

17.6.86

My dear Father,

I did not manage  
to write last night as usual  
so you will be a little late  
in getting my letter. This is  
Whit Monday and a general  
holiday in England and I  
question very much if letters  
will be sent off from here  
today. We have now only  
six weeks till July 30<sup>th</sup> when  
we go to Aldershot and I shall  
make my first step in the

3. The same as number 2.

4. Shepherd & myself.

In the first photo. M<sup>c</sup> Laffart is sitting on a broken chair & before I got this photo taken it had given way three times. In the instantaneous ones the swagger and smile are the most noticeable features.

After I had done this I got my camera focussed on the two again and then changed places with M<sup>c</sup> Laffart & got him & ~~the~~ photo-graph Shepherd & myself. It is taken in my shirt as the day was very hot & the studio like

an orchid house it was so warm.

M<sup>c</sup> Laffart is the man Colin Campbell offered to introduce me to. He is perpetually smiling as in his photo. He says it is the best one he ever had taken of himself.

Shepherd is an Englishman & a very nice fellow and like M<sup>c</sup> Laffart is in for the Indian Service. He has a slightly red nose and we constantly tease him about the "whisky plukes"; and tell him it is a good thing

service. I suppose Mary and  
Lo will be home now. I  
enjoyed their visit here on  
Wednesday very much. They  
will tell you all about it.

I got the Album all right.  
How much was it? It  
will do fine for photos.

I got my boots (marching) from  
Miller & Smith on Thursday  
- at once sent off another  
pair to be re-soled &  
returned as soon as possible.  
This week I send you four  
photos as follows:-

1. M<sup>r</sup> Laffart & Shepherd
2. Otto marching in quick time  
taken instantaneously.

that ruby coloured light has  
no effect on the sensitive  
plates used in photography.  
We had a good laugh after  
parade the first day the roll  
was called by the Corp<sup>e</sup>  
shouting out "Maeläggarat"  
for Mr<sup>e</sup> Lappart and as a  
result he is always called  
Maeläggarat now and I  
think most of the mess think  
that is the proper pronoun-  
-ation.

I wish the envelopes you sent  
me had been of a size to  
hold photographs as it would  
have saved a lot of bother  
making up parcels.

himself heard and then getting  
blackguarded by Cury: Napier  
Faris for going wrong.

I have not had my turn yet  
but it will come round in  
time.

Today has been a nasty  
wet day with a draught  
coming in below my door  
enough to take my boots off.

The men were up today before  
the O. R. O. for being late  
for parade. I myself was  
very nearly late & had to fall  
in without shaving but it  
was not noticed. I have never  
been late yet.

The other day while going about  
the back of the hospital I saw  
one of the men of the Corps  
drunk. I sent for him, made  
him give me his name and  
ordered him to the cells. I

saw the other day he had got  
3 days C. O. (confined to barracks)  
for it as well as 48 hrs cells.

The other day I was examining  
a patient and I asked him  
if he was drunk when he  
met with the accident. He was  
one of the A & S. H. (argyle &  
Lutherland 14th B) and he  
replied "Well, Sir, I was gey  
near land it." I felt  
inclined to order him beer

I enclose a bit of my admission  
& discharge sheet with all  
my patients (survived) except  
one entered in it.

I wrote to Ned the other day and  
asked him down to mess but  
he was unable to come  
having some previous engagement.

At drill just now we are  
getting our turns as guides  
& commanders. It is great  
fun to hear some of the  
fellows shouting their orders.  
I would enjoy it very much  
if I could look on, but  
it is not quite such fun  
being commanded by a  
man who can't make

3

to his drill it was so  
jolly to hear the Scotch  
tongue. We Scotchmen  
almost always speak  
Scotch, but and it is most  
amusing to see how we  
are not understood at mess.  
Now I have no more  
news. With love to all  
I am

your affec. son  
David M. Grieg.

B. V. Hosp.

Kelly

Haut.

20.6.88

My dear Father

I have had such  
a jolly correspondence  
from home this week.  
Kelly's letter was most  
enjoyable. She & Mother  
seem I have had a rare  
day of it at Killin etc.  
I am glad Tag to be  
with them in summer they  
will all enjoy it so much.

and use my own microscope  
as I like it better than  
the government ones which  
are provided for us.

As a lecturer Aitken is  
not good though his lectures  
are interesting and instructive.  
The work in Chaumont's labor-  
atory I hate as it is all  
fractions, chemistry and  
difficult arithmetical cal-  
culations. He is not  
good either as a lecturer  
and it is hard as a rule  
to keep awake while he  
addresses us for an hour.  
You know sleeping while  
on duty is a crime and



I enclose a sketch I  
made of him in the class  
the other day. It is very  
like him indeed. On his  
shoulder he has the crown  
and two stars. He has one  
medal with two clasps,  
I think of the Sudan Mutiny  
but am not very sure.

Acipenserine has been  
used.

Wear warm clothing  
flannel next skin  
Hot springs are useful  
esp. Sulphur & Iron  
line ailments & relieve  
congestion. Backache  
seldom useful in  
private but in military.

fractious, chemistry and  
difficult with mutual cal-  
culations. He is not  
good either as a lecturer  
and it is hard as a rule  
to keep awake while he  
addresses us for an hour.  
You know sleeping while  
on duty is a crime and

attending lectures is a duty  
and we can be punished  
for sleeping when we should  
be awake.

Smith (Exp: Surg: Gen.) is a  
better lecturer. His lectures  
consist entirely of Indian  
(tropical) diseases and are  
useful and interesting.

I enclose a sketch I  
made of him in the class  
the other day. It is very  
like him indeed. On his  
shoulder he has the crown  
and two stars. He has one  
medal with two clasps.  
I think of the Indian Mutiny  
but am not very sure.

I suppose you yourself  
will. Have had a jolly  
holiday, though a short one  
at- morning. You must tell  
me about it when you  
write again.

I send you a bit of poetry  
which Mary - the Miss Grig-  
sent me during my 1<sup>st</sup>-  
session in Edinburgh.

You ask about the work  
under Art. Pen & Chaumont.  
Well I like Aithens' work very  
much as it is all microscopy  
and you know I like that  
sort of work. I have  
bought a Camera lucida  
with some of my savings

2.

Louymore is an awfully nice old boy and his lectures are most interesting. He constantly illustrates his subject from his own experiences. He is at present at "Westward Ho" & will not be back till Monday so I have not seen him yet. I gave him the case you sent me. Thanks very much for the case and the trouble you must have taken to get it up. Now that I have the man's own address I can get any further particulars I may

with advantage; so you see  
I have not forgotten the  
recent scientific work  
I learned at college.

You remember I told  
you I sent one of my  
professional photos to  
Mr. Lane in Edinburgh.  
Well, I had a very nice  
letter in return from him  
with suggestions for original  
research in his subject.

The caps I took Mr. Tappart  
& Clifford in are our  
"fatigue caps"; we all wear  
them when in uniform and  
off duty. I thought perhaps

you had seen the caps  
before.  
Now I will stop as I  
wish to make a letter for  
Lina & if I tell you  
any more I will have  
nothing to say.  
Love to all.

I am  
Your affec. son  
Edwin Gray.

want from him.

When I was in the medical division I got & used my ophthalmoscope several times and in one of my cases I worked up *Retinitis Pigmēntosa* which one of my patients had. In the surgical side I have used my laryngoscope in a case of specific laryngitis.

In both divisions I have made good use of the lamprocytometer and lamnophobinometer.

In two of my cases I used the sphygmograph also

Dr. V. Hosp!  
2nd-ly  
Hants.

24. 6. 86.

My dear Father,  
From the letters I  
had forwarded from home  
you seem to have been  
having a "high old time" of  
it "Among the Helant hills,  
man!" I hope Grandmother  
is better now as Nell tells  
me she had a bad cold.  
Is she going north with the  
rest?  
I have absolutely no news to

O'iani was Capt of No II  
with other two as Lieutenants.  
I was appointed right marker  
to No I (Capt). We marched  
past three times in column  
and once in quarter column.  
Then Paris made a speech  
which I could not hear  
and so our drill at  
that day came to an end.  
I am sorry it is finished  
because I liked it very  
much.

On Saturday after the  
mornings' work I got into  
planch and after lunch  
played tennis for an hour  
and a half. The sun was

very warm. Then till half  
past six I spent the time  
lying on the grass with  
Fowler & others and watched  
our team get beaten at  
cricket by a South Hants  
team.

It was so warm that even  
lying still we were sweating  
considerably. Then after  
evening visit I went  
I had a bath with some  
other fellows in the swim-  
ming bath house. The  
bath is about 50 ft long  
by 20 wide & increases in  
depth from 4 ft at one  
end to about 7 or 8 feet at

give you this week. Monday,  
Tuesday, Wednesday &  
Thursday were occupied by  
usual routine; and in the  
afternoon, work. You see  
it is now only a month to  
the exams: and so I am  
rather busy and will be  
till I have passed them.  
On Friday morning we  
finished our drill here by  
a swell march past.  
Surgeon Major Farris acting  
as inspecting officer. Our  
drill instructor Lieut Brown  
was "Major". Dr Fayrer was  
Captain of No I with Cottell  
and Bailey as Lieutenants.

the other. <sup>2</sup> It was awfully jolly.

This morning I turned out about 7 and went in off the pier with about half a dozen other fellows. So yet in we had a dive of about 14 feet but there were only two besides myself who would take that height. It was splendid.

I have got an invitation to dine at Aitken's on Thursday.

On Wednesday I laid the case you sent me before

made of Aitken and one  
of Chaumont. They are  
not such good literates  
as Smith's, but are quite  
recognisable. Of course  
they both lecture in Mufti.  
Now I have absolutely  
nothing else to say so  
must draw up. With  
love to all,

I am

yours affect: son  
David M. Gray.



Aitken



De Chaumont

made of Auburn and one  
of Champlain. They are  
not such good witnesses  
as Smith's, but are quite  
recognisable. Of course  
they both believe in Mufti.  
Now I have absolutely  
nothing else to say so  
must draw up. With  
love to all,

I am

yours affec: son  
David M. Guig.



Aitham

Lanyonmore. He was very  
interested in it and said  
you should publish it. If  
you don't do this I might  
get hold of the man next  
time I am in Dundee  
& get particulars myself  
and publish it.

I have asked Fred Miller  
to come down & spend  
July 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> with me and  
he has accepted my invitation.  
It will be a jolly holiday  
for him and will repay  
him somewhat for the  
trouble he took in trotting  
me about when I was  
in London.

I enclose a sketch I

R. V. Harp.  
Net-lug.  
Hauts

4.7.86

My dear Father,

The exertion of  
writing a letter is really severe  
in such hot weather. Not a  
drop of rain for a week  
and the thermometer ranging  
to  $90^{\circ}$  in the shade and  
 $140^{\circ}$  in the Sun.

I was delighted to hear of  
the children's successes at  
school.

I had a jolly letter from

Then after that had tennis for  
an hour or so & then had  
another swim. Then we had  
just time for evening visit &  
then ones and beak.

On Thursday ~~Ed~~ and Shepwood  
went to Aitken's to dinner.

There were two of Brig<sup>d</sup> Lury:  
Vale's daughters there. You  
remember Vale don't  
you? He was at the Crimea,  
India & lately rather got  
himself into hot water over  
something in Egypt. I  
think he has charge of the  
base hospital there. You  
pointed out his name to

me in the Blue book on the  
medical administration in  
Egypt, and said you knew  
him.

Col. Young (C & T. corps) & his  
wife were there too. He is  
an awfully nice fellow  
with over so many medals.  
We had a jolly party & then  
walked home & turned in  
soon after midnight.

Aitken's dining room he  
has a set of portraits of  
all the old ~~London~~ men  
like, Turing, Webster, Syall,  
Cox, & so on.

Talking of portraits there  
is a portrait in the Drops

well yesterday & they seem to  
be enjoying themselves very  
much.

After I wrote last Sunday  
I went along with Horie to  
Humble where we bought  
some strawberries and  
lay on the beach & sweated.  
Then we came home and  
got the key of the swimming  
bath and had such a  
jolly swim.

On Monday, Tuesday and  
Wednesday in the morning  
I went in off the pier,  
then had breakfast, <sup>work</sup> ~~tea~~  
& lectures and then lunch. Then  
I read till 4.30 P.M.

2

room hon of Liby; Gen: McLean.  
It is mounted in a gold & black  
frame & underneath in  
gold letters is printed "Should  
ould Apuaintine he forget."  
Sir J. Longmore I hear has  
his picture in the Academy  
this year.

On Friday the mess gave  
a Cinderella Ball hon.  
I was on as Crd: M: Off:  
that day so escaped. There  
was absolutely nothing to do  
except see if there were any  
complaints & inspect the  
men.

The dance stopped at midnight  
and a few minutes after this

fell asleep in my uniform  
& slept till 6 when I had  
to get up to duty. The  
reville that morning had  
no effect on me, I never  
heard it, but wakened from  
force of habit.

Monday. 5<sup>th</sup> July

Yesterday I was interrupted  
by Marder coming in  
and asking me to go to  
Swain. The tide was in  
and we had a delightful  
couple of hours bathing.  
Then we walked along  
to Hamble and had some

bread & cheese & lunch  
and after a short walk  
got back in time for  
evening visit.

Today it is as hot as ever  
and I have just come  
in from swimming.  
Now I have nothing more  
to say so must bid good  
bye for the present. Give  
my love to all at Killyn  
& Newrick.

I am

Your affec<sup>t</sup> son  
David Luing

some fellows came up to my room  
- brought me a bottle of  
Cham: They stayed a while  
& then went away. Soon after  
this some more dropped in,  
and ~~so~~ so on till about 4  
a.m.: the men dropping in  
on their road home, ostensibly  
to ask for me but in  
reality to see if I had any  
liquor. It was rather  
amusing to see them. The  
first who came in were  
sober, the next, not quite sober  
until the last man who  
had considerable difficulty  
in keeping himself on the  
chair. After he left I

R. V. H.

18. 7. 86.

My dear Father,

It is absolutely  
unless I try to give you a  
letter this week. The whole  
week has been a regular  
routine of work and reading  
in the afternoon. Our  
exams: begin on Thursday  
first and we have here

I expect to get good marks  
in both divisions in my  
cases as I took a good  
deal of trouble with them.  
My plan is the great bug-bear  
here. I hate the subject  
enough myself as it consists  
of nothing but arithmetic  
and chemistry and you  
know there are not  
my fault.

This week I shall pack  
up some things I do not  
require and send them home  
as they are in my road.

The clothing can be kept

and I can draw on it as  
I wish it; the books can  
be put past.

Now I am very sorry that  
I am unable to make a  
letter this week but hope to  
give you something better  
next time. Love to all.

I am

Your affec<sup>t</sup>ed son  
E. A. Craig.

on Friday week for  
Aldershot. That is  
totally and absolutely  
all my news. I hope  
you had a pleasant  
anniversary, I will be  
having letters on Tuesday  
telling me all about it  
I suppose.

Every one of us is sick tired  
of this place. I would like  
the place very much if I  
had more patients. I have  
probably had more patients  
than most of us but I  
would have liked more.