

## Notes from the Diaries of Mary CROWTHER 1916-1917

Alexander Turnbull Library Reference 88-248-04

\* = Who were the boys of Wainuiomata by Gavin Wallace (2014)

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### 1916 Diary

Notes from 1915

Miss Little, No.11 Park Street

Mrs Nelson, No.69 Rintoul Street

Miss Leatham, Waikanae

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1916 Jan 01 Sat	Woodlands people to dinner tomorrow. Last night there was a send-off party to three soldiers, W. Prouse, .... Wheelins... A. Gvetson, I did not go, too much like rain. Made up my mind to sell place next spring...
1916 Jan 02 Sun	Beautiful day. Kate, Jack and his two daughters came to dinner...
1916 Jan 03 Mon	The 'Maheno' returned this morning with cases of enteric fever which is to be hoped will not spread here.
1916 Jan 05 Wed	Mr Millard started to cut hay in orchard.
1916 Jan 10 Mon	Had to go to Post Office for mail as Eric Millard "didn't feel like going". Neither did I. The Stuarts drove up to the gate and arranged to come up on Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> . I promised to call on Mrs Stuart tomorrow.
1916 Jan 11 Tue	Entertained J. W. Wood at morning tea. Went to see Mrs Burdan whom I found much better and soon going to Wellington for her operation... called to see Mrs Stuart and am taking her to Woodlands next Tuesday...
1916 Jan 20 Thu	Mr Wood came up and told me Mr Ward was coming to look at place suggested...
1916 Jan 22 Sat	A little rain in early morning. Had to come home to meet Mr W. Mr Wood took him round place. Don't think he was much impressed still less so when I told him price £1000 so shall probably not hear anything more from him... Got letter from Laurie...

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1916 Feb 10 Thu	Ngaruahoe is again active – glad I am not at Raurimu
1916 Feb 12 Sat	Miss Letham is going away to Waikanae – shall miss her
1916 Feb 16 Wed	Mrs Burt Snr came to 'Woodlands' with her son [&] his wife. Mrs Sanson called at 'Woodlands' then at 'Northbrook' to see about arrangement for opening of new bridge on Saturday.
1916 Feb 17 Thu	Mrs Wood & family came up black berrying – they came into the gardens only
1916 Feb 26 Sat	Expect the Jenkins tomorrow
1916 Feb 28 Mon	Mrs Burt's birthday party on Wednesday (90 <sup>th</sup> ) – saw Lizzie Wood at her mother's – they have left Leoni for good
1916 Feb 29 Tue	Jack Wood called to tell me that I am invited to the send-off to one of the Wainui soldiers
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1916 Mar 01 Wed	Made three 2lb jars of jam for soldiers fund – the soldier looked a pleasing man & received a wrist watch
1916 Mar 08 Wed	Letter from Lawree (possibly Laurence Dudley Chambers)
1916 Mar 19 Sun	Willie Burrow's farewell next Saturday night & must go to town and get him a present (William Burrow volunteered December 1915*)
1916 Mar 22 Wed	Mabel Jensen married today to W. Bulliman – very quiet wedding (Walter Bulliman to Mabel Doris Jensen)
1916 Mar 31 Fri	I think I shall go to town tomorrow to see troops off
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1916 Apr 01 Sat	Got to Hutt about 10 – went into town 12. Met Belle & Ethel and watched march past of 11 Bs... went to F. Col... war lecture which enjoyed very much (probably Frederic Coleman's War Stories held at the Town Hall Concert Chamber titled "With the Allies in France and Flanders" – Evening Post 01 Apr 1916 page 3)

*Evening Post 03 Apr 1916 Troops and Bands – Saturday's Parade*

The parade of the 11th Reinforcements on Saturday was remarkable for the number of bands participating. There were bands every few yards, and when they were all playing it was a perfect riot of music. The Wellington Pipe Band led the march, and following at intervals were: Salvation Army (City), Featherston Trumpeters and Drummers, Natives' Association, Christchurch Salvation Army, Patriotic Society (late Jupp's), Featherston Camp, Gisborne Salvation Army, Feilding Salvation Army, Palmerston Salvation Army, Wellington South Salvation Army. There were twelve bands in all, six of them being Salvation Army organisations.

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1916 Apr 05 Wed      Bertie Burdan married today (Bertie Richard Rainsford Burdan to Ada Jane Paterson)

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1916 May 03 Wed	Willie Burrow went on Monday
1916 May 05 Fri	Went to town 1.30 – saw Mr Nelson who had been to Raurimu for Easter
1916 May 10 Wed	Made up my mind to go to Opunake week after next
1916 May 17 Wed	Willie Millard came home after ten weeks in hospital
1916 May 29 Mon	Leave for Eltham tomorrow morning
1916 May 30 Tue	Fine when arrived at Palmerston – went from Eltham to Kaponga – stayed there the night. Met Mrs Speedy whose husband has gone to the front.
1916 May 31 Wed	Arrived at Opunake 11.30 by motor-bus

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1916 Jun 08 Thu      Went with Kate to give afternoon tea to men who were building R.C. tea-room at saleyards; boat came in and Walter went off in her to Wanganui (Walter Lawrence Frederick Chambers and his wife Catherine Elizabeth or 'Kate' nee Sinclair)

1916 Jun 09 Fri      In afternoon went again to saleyards with afternoon tea. Cold better. (Mary began suffering from a cold shortly after arrival at Opunake)

1916 Jun 10 Sat      Walter returned from Wanganui by rail and bus

1916 Jun 13 Tue      In evening [went] to Memorial Service in Town Hall – felt very sad and wanted to howl

1916 Jun 18 Sun      Walter stayed in bed all day

1916 Jun 20 Tue      Fixed up Margery's dress for... tomorrow night (probably Kate's eldest daughter aged 17)

1916 Jun 22 Thu      Kate and Walter have gone to a church meeting

1916 Jun 23 Fri      Kate and Walter saw me off at 6.30 - got to Hawera safely. Had a good seat in the train. The train ran into a motorcar or two... injured... felt rather upset after accident.

*Evening Post 25 Jun 1916 Railway Crossing Fatality – Train Smashes Motor – Man Killed and Wife Seriously Injured*

Palmerston North 23<sup>rd</sup> June. A fatal accident occurred on the railway this afternoon. A taxi-cab, driven by Mr Madge, of Palmerston North, with three passengers – Mr Evans (stock agent, Palmerston), Mr H. H. Gowdy (farmer of Ruanui), and Mrs Gowdy – was attempting to cross the railway line on the Palmerston side of the Taonui station, when it collided with the New Plymouth-Wellington express. The taxi was approaching from the left-hand side. It was completely hooded, and going the same way as the train. The driver did not see or hear the express coming, and went straight on to the line, where the express crashed into the cab at an estimated speed of forty-five miles. The taxi was smashed to matchwood. The driver and Evans escaped with minor injuries, but Gowdy and Mrs Gowdy were thrown out at the back and fell on their heads on the cattle-stops, receiving very serious injuries, which, in the case of Gowdy, proved fatal. The express pulled up, and the injured passengers were brought to Palmerston and conveyed to the hospital, where Gowdy died from head injuries. Mrs Gowdy's condition is critical... A Press Association telegram from Palmerston North records the death of Mrs Gowdy, another victim of the level crossing accident near the Taonui station.

Henry Hamilton Gowdy aged 52yrs; Janet Gowdy (nee Hood) aged 57yrs

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1916 Jun 24 Sat      Went to see the Sinclairs

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1916 Jul 05 Wed	Letter from Kate – Lawrie coming to Masterton
1916 Jul 07 Fri	Bob Thomson's father who died – one year since I left Raurimu
1916 Jul 09 Sun	A year today since I arrived at Raurimu
1916 Jul 11 Tue	Ethel leaves for Kaponga tomorrow
1916 Jul 12 Wed	[received] a book of war cartoons from Walter

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1916 Aug 04 Fri	Went to the Town Hall to Anniversary of War (2) – saw Mr J. Prouse of Levin
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1916 Sep 01 Fri	Marg packed up (Margery Chambers may possibly had been visiting in the Wellington area for a few days?)
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1916 Oct 03 Tue	... 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut Vincent & Edwin Wood both wounded – four other names I know 22900 Edwin Wakeham Wood, b 1896 Levin, died of wounds 25 Sep 1916 Battle of the Somme - son of John William Wood and Eliza nee Johnson 23/1904 Thomas Gaius Vincent – husband of Emma (born in Wainuiomata in 1889 and dau of James Prouse and Clara Ann nee Sedcole of Levin)
1916 Oct 14 Sat	Called at post office – they had just got news that Willie was killed in action on September 29. I felt quite upset... Mrs Burrows was... cut up about it.
1916 Oct 15 Sun	Wet day, stayed in bed until 10. Felt very tired and low spirited all day and... cannot... Willie B out of my mind. I did hope he would come back to his mother... have just filled in the census paper.
1916 Oct 16 Mon	Miss Letham's sister's husband Lieut. Page died of wounds... Nat Willoughby* enlisted at last. 12/48 George Davies Page died of wounds received in action on 06 Oct 1916. He married Jessie Liston Letham in 1902.
1916 Oct 22 Sun	Saw Mrs Burrows who looked fairly bright
1916 Oct 26 Thu	Finished reading book "He who passed"
1916 Oct 27 Fri	Got 2 papers... from Opunake... Mrs D. Bagge's brother just returned by 'Marama'
1916 Oct 29 Sun	Jack Burrow home on final leave
1916 Oct 31 Tue	Doug Yates died of wounds on Oct 22 (12/2593 Douglas Duncan Mearns Yeats)

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1916 Nov 30 Thu	Eric brought paper – got a shock when I opened it and saw Mrs Burt's death notice. She died on Tuesday – I had an idea she would not get over this attack – 90yrs – I wonder if I shall live as long.
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1916 Dec 01 Fri	Lovely day, very slight frost. Went to Woodlands... they are away at Mrs Burt's funeral. Waited until they came home. She died very quietly about 9 pm Tuesday evening...
1916 Dec 08 Fri	Mr Wood came to see sick calf. Did not take it away... got paper... Bell-view Hotel burnt down. War news not bright... Have not yet made up my mind about Xmas. Expect I will stay at home...
1916 Dec 10 Sun	Lovely day, got to Woodlands about 11.30. Belle had cycled in. She is going up with Mrs Cleland this week
1916 Dec 13 Wed	Fine day, cloudy part of time, but... earthquake at... letter from Miss Little who is coming... Xmas, so must hurry up and get rest of house cleaning done... no chance of a Xmas trip... as well perhaps now that Miss Little is coming.
1916 Dec 15 Fri	Jack Burrow who went yesterday...is called up...
1916 Dec 16 Sat	Fine day, easterly wind... walked down for paper. Not many at picnic. Very little war news.
1916 Dec 18 Sun	Fine calm day. Dull most of time. Eric came to practise. Got to Woodlands about 12. Gladys & all children there...
1916 Dec 18 Mon	Wish I had arranged to go away for Xmas. Too late now...
1916 Dec 19 Tue	Great French victory at Verdun... Expect letter from Miss Little.
1916 Dec 20 Wed	Went to see Mrs Gilbert... had a look through Jack's house, called at Woodlands... got letter from Miss Little, coming next Wednesday...
1916 Dec 21 Thu	Mrs Stevens and her son are over for Xmas...
1916 Dec 22 Fri	Went for mail. Got broach and card of Opunake, letter from Marg... If fine am going out tomorrow with Mrs Millard...
1916 Dec 23 Sat	Started with Mrs Millard... caught 10.15 train... went to Kelburn and had lunch with the Biss's... Audrey in hospital...
1916 Dec 24 Sun	Lovely day, very hot. Had lunch at Northb... went to Church, Rev Angus. Saw Annie, J. & her daughter. Went to Woodlands for afternoon tea... Am going to Woodlands to dinner...if fine. George... to enlist this week...
1916 Dec 25 Mon	Dull morning, South, cleared up afternoon. Got to Woodlands just after 12. Had nice dinner, saw all children's... The girls gave me three cups and saucers. Got home about 8...
1916 Dec 26 Tue	Went down for paper. Mrs M... had returned from their drive down to the beach. Had a lovely time...
1916 Dec 27 Thu	Miss Little arrived 1.30. Eric came to practise...
1916 Dec 29 Fri	George enlisted & M. Wednesday he goes into camp on Feb...

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## 1917 Diary

### Notes from 1916:

Miss M. Nicholls	4 Harbour View, Wellington
Mr Nelson	20 Stoke Street, Newtown
Miss Little	63 Fitzherbert Terrace, Wellington

### Memoranda

May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Started 1 <sup>st</sup> candle of supply
May 25	Started 5lb of flour
Jun 11	Started paper from shop
Jun 25	Started 5lb tin of tea
Jul 20	Started 2 <sup>nd</sup> tin of kerosene

May 1915	9 3 7
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43292	G. H. Wood, 27 Reinforcements NZEF
61524	Cpl. C. Burdan, B. Company 30 Reinforcements NZEF
56745	Cpl. L. D. Chambers, B. Company 29 Reinforcements NZEF
22/..	Sister Sinclair, Arming Nursing Service NZEF

Three things a wise man will not trust – the wind, the sunshine of an April day and woman's plighted faith

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1917 Jan 07 Sun	Misses Newton & Letham are at schoolhouse.
1917 Jan 08 Mon	Went to see Miss Letham – so nice to see her again, expect them on Wednesday afternoon
1917 Jan 10 Wed	Misses Letham & Newton Michell came to afternoon tea. Drove up in J. Burrow's trap...
1917 Jan 14 Sun	Went to orchard and found codlin moth bad & after dinner went down to see if Mr Wood could help me spray. Eliza Wood was there with Masie so was glad I went.
1917 Jan 26 Fri	Mr Burrow brought mail... Willie is going to drive Miss Nicholls out... not much war news, some German subs sunk
1917 Jan 27 Sat	Got to Lower Hutt 10 to 10, called at Gertie Angus', went in train with Miss Nicholls...
1917 Jan 28 Sun	Left Hutt... got a lift up hill in gig. Lucky for the heat was great. Spent rest of day at Woodlands. George & Ethel went to church
1917 Jan 30 Tue	Hot 82... Much smoke from bush fires... did a big walk... went to library... got two books
1917 Feb 02 Fri	Mr Wood brought up ten cattle, stayed until 12.30 so had my dinner late. Had dip afternoon. Eric brought mail, paper and bill for new stove pipe... did little sewing, finished one pyjama coat, wish they were done.
1917 Feb 03 Sat	Have been reading Jan Hay's 1 <sup>st</sup> 100 1000...
1917 Feb 04 Sun	Got to Woodlands... Dorothy will with colic... Called at Northbrook on way home, Mrs M. returned from town so got my meat
1917 Feb 05 Mon	Relations between America & Germany ended
1917 Feb 07 Wed	Mrs Aplin came to ask if she may pick black berries
1917 Feb 08 Thu	Dorothy better
1917 Feb 11 Sun	Just written to Margery C.
1917 Feb 13 Tue	Left for Lower Hutt 7.30. Heavy rain from south just when got to Lower Hutt. Took shelter at Gertie Auger's. Went to town 11.30, saw Mr Ward in train. Wet when I arrived in town. Took car to Miss Little's, lunch with her then out to Fearon by car, spent afternoon with Mrs Harper... Got back to town... had tea 6.30 with Miss Little and spent night there
1917 Feb 14 Wed	Went into town early... bought a few things... came to Lower Hutt 4.25 train, heavy rain so had to go to Mr Orr's for night
1917 Feb 15 Thu	Got to Woodlands for breakfast. Belle looking well. Saw Kate... Opunake, ill in bed. Must write to her. Letter from George who likes new life.
1917 Feb 16 Fri	Eric brought paper, no letters, informed me that some soldiers (6) were out black berrying



- 1917 Feb 17 Sat All the Woodland's girls, big & little, arrived about 11.30, we had lunch on the lawn
- 1917 Feb 20 Tue Mrs Perry, Barber & Miss Howe arrived about 11, had lunch on lawn, also afternoon tea. People from Wadestown also came just after the Hutt people had gone. Mr Johnson and another man arrived, gave them tea.
- 1917 Feb 21 Wed Masterton show today. Am not sorry I did not go for weather would not be at all pleasant
- 1917 Feb 23 Fri Four boys came from Lower Hutt, let them pick near the house
- 1917 Feb 25 Sun Messrs Oswin & Robinson arrived about 11.30
- 1917 Feb 26 Mon Got 'Marawa' off at high tide
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- 1917 Mar 03 Sat Six men came to pick black berries. Gave Mr Dunbar & friend afternoon tea
- 1917 Mar 04 Sun Big fire in swamp side of hill. Hope Woodlands bush is not burnt
- 1917 Mar 05 Mon Went to see Mr Clegge & then to Woodlands, Mr C. very please to see me. Ethel going to help at R. C. Shop at Petone on Friday. Got letter from Kate, not well enough to come down here, Margery away at New Plymouth getting her eyes seen to.
- 1917 Mar 07 Wed Letter from Miss Little. Habor Burrow died this morning after an operation for appendicitis. Poor... they will be upset.
- 1917 Mar 08 Thu Ladies arrived about 11, twelve of them, had their lunch in garden. Picked black berries until 3.30, had tea on lawn 4. Ms Hollis came in several times and rested. The ladies were Madams Hollis, Perry, Barber, Leighton, Higgie, Robinson, Foster, Misses Parsons, Foster (2), Sladden, Hurst... they enjoyed themselves muchly & departed in a new car and two traps.
- 1917 Mar 09 Fri Little Habor's funeral this afternoon. Picked European apples. Great fire in hills... Eric got paper... not much war news, long K & W. List [killed or wounded] list, no names I known
- 1917 Mar 10 Sat Picked last plums of new tree
- 1917 Mar 12 Mon Two men came to get berries. Went to library, had tea with Miss Oswin, Mary Burrow had gone to town
- 1917 Mar 13 Tue Dug early potatoes, packed 'Empire' apples, saw a man – believe it was Arthur Swindell
- 1917 Mar 14 Wed Percy Wood called up, no other names I know
- 1917 Mar 16 Fri Picked 'Lady Harriet' apples, fire.. to bush & re hill at back... awful... We went to get out sheep...cattle... Jack Wood came & then again later with his father also Mr M.... Fred S... went away about 10 as fire back calmed down.

1917 Mar 17 Sat	Got up several times to see fire out did not revive. Mr M. got out more sheep, found some burnt. Jack went up and found two dead, others nearly so. Ethel, Gladys came about 12 got black berries and apples. Mr Dunbar came with some people
1917 Mar 18 Sun	Went to Woodlands for dinner, thought George would be there but did not arrive. Came home 2.30, afraid of fire spreading, coming down hill at back.
1917 Mar 19 Mon	Fire spreading down the hill, big fire on top...
1917 Mar 21 Wed	Fire at back perked up a bit
1917 Mar 23 Fri	Very hot. Rain passed away. I am afraid. Got up 12 last night to see about fire. Shall not have to worry about it tonight for I think it has burnt itself out... letter from Miss Nicholls
1917 Mar 24 Sat	Mr Perry arrived about 4, had tea, sold them 5lbs grapes, sent some to Mr Hollis
1917 Mar 26 Mon	Went to Woodlands and Library. All well at Woodlands. George was over yesterday. Saw Miss Oswin. Soldier's farewell may come off on Saturday next. Saw Jack Wood
1917 Mar 27 Tue	'Rotorua' sunk, all saved, passengers had been landed at Plymouth
1917 Mar 30 Fri	Farewell to soldiers tomorrow
1917 Mar 31 Sat	W. Scholes and B. Burrows received watches alas N. Will... who was not there
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1917 Apr 06 Fri	Top reservoir empty & fish dying
1917 Apr 09 Mon	The Dyers & Mary Burrow arrived while I was out in orchard. Gave them afternoon tea. Came in their new car.
1917 Apr 10 Tue	Saw Jack Wood. Gave him case for field glasses.
1917 Apr 17 Tue	Saw George who is on his final leave, wished him goodbye
1917 Apr 21 Sat	Have just writ to Lawrie
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1917 May 16 Wed	Postcard from Miss Nicholls
1917 May 21 Mon	Letter from Miss Little
1917 May 23 Wed	Went for mail – letter from Margery enclosing one of Jean’s. Kate had another bad turn also Walter a heart attack. They seem to be in a bad way. Lawrie not in camp yet. Having a few days at home.
1917 May 30 Wed	Went for mail and paper & photo of B & C Burrow
1917 Jun 05 Tue	Saw Willie Prouse on hill & had a chat. He looks well. Better I expect than he is.
1917 Jun 12 Tue	Had a f... dream about Kate C. Hope there is not more trouble at Opunake.
1917 Jun 13 Wed	Got 2 papers and 2 letters from Margery giving good account of all people – she wrote from Mr Pope’s.
1917 Jun 22 Fri	Eric brought paper & 2 wires, one from Margery and one from Aunt Luc.
1917 Jun 23 Sat	... a year since I left Opunake
1917 Jul 07 Sat	2 years today since I left for Raurimu
1917 Jul 13 Fri	War news good but not much of it. Some M.P.’s suggesting curtailment of reinforcements. Hope they will not get their way.
1917 Jul 18 Wed	War news still good. See that Guy Seton has returned... he has been wounded twice...
1917 Jul 21 Sat	Went to library and got one book
1917 Jul 27 Fri	Letter from Margery, Lawrie sailing tomorrow so think I should go in if fine. Don’t expect I shall find him, but it will please his mother if I go look out for him. Don’t think weather will be fine and shall not start off in rain.
1917 Jul 28 Sat	This morning started for Lower Hutt about 9. Went... 11.20 train... found Miss Little’s new rooms. Had lunch with her found that men had gone on Thursday.

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1917 Aug 06 Mon	Sharp earthquake about ¼ to 4 a.m. Few things thrown down, one vase broken.
1917 Aug 07 Tue	Slight earthquake about same time... earthquake... at Masterton
1917 Aug 08 Wed	Letter from Lawrie who is still in camp. He was sent into Isolation Camp instead of sailing with his company
1917 Aug 09 Thu	Went to take letter to Lawrie for the... to post tomorrow
1917 Aug 10 Fri	Red light in sky last night "Aurora Australis" thought it was. Mr M. said it was a fire.
1917 Aug 11 Sat	Baked cake for Lawrie
1917 Aug 13 Mon	Think troops are going this week
1917 Aug 15 Wed	Lawrie at Trentham
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1917 Aug 17 Fri	Went for mail early in case letter from Lawrie, there was not so I shall not see him after all. War news still good. Big war loan called for. Wish I had money to help.
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1917 Sep 03 Mon	E. Jensen, D. Bulliman, T. Shernick & H. Pace drawn in ballot
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1917 Oct 20 Sat	Saw Friday's paper. Poor Fred Swindell killed in action. I did hope he would get through.
1917 Oct 22 Mon	Jack enlisted not yet passed
1917 Oct 26 Fri	Dick Burt wounded
1917 Oct 29 Mon	F. Spilman wounded
1917 Oct 31 Wed	Laurie posted... to Jean
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1917 Nov 02 Fri	Long "Roll of Honour" 1200 casualties. Lt-Col Charters wounded
1917 Nov 04 Sun	D. Martin dead
1917 Nov 06 Tue	First ballot of married men. A few names I know. T. Cleland seriously wounded.
1917 Nov 08 Thu	Got letter from Jessie Elliott her son Jack went in 23 <sup>rd</sup> Artillery

Up to 09 Nov 1917 (to be continued)

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