

March

Sunday 24

1918

Monday 25

Dads birthday (Butler)

Wrote a letter at dawn
so hopes he gets the
good wishes

Pagie and I applied for
grance This morning I
wonder when Nathan
will send applications
through?

make good conveyances. We had a splendid time. Arrived home again at 2.45 a.m. All tired but happy."

Then on March 25, Pagie and I applied for service in France. We wondered though if Matron would allow our applications to go through. She was reluctant to lose any of her nurses.

German offensive
"The Legionary"

In the meantime, we continued on regular duty. My next entry, however, was not concerned with duty. Five of us, accompanied again by a medical officer and his wife, as chaperons, went to the Sergeants' Dance at Saffron's Rooms. I loved to dance, and those boys were good dancers. Late that night I wrote in my journal - "Oh, I would go again!" - and then must have felt there was little else worth recording, in the days that followed, for the spaces are blank.

On April 11, however, I was told to report to Matron's office. She had sent me once to the medical ward, just to talk for a little while to a Cree Indian, Sergeant Gow, in his own language. That was part of her consideration for the patients in her charge, one reason why she had been appointed Matron of the hospital. This time the assignment was a serious one. Private Lang was on the "dangerously

a dau. of Chief Factor Joseph Fortescoe was among nurses lost on Llandoverly Castle (see Fort's McKay papers) 14

On April 26, when we were returning to duty, Grace received orders to sail on a transport taking wounded men and dependants - wives and young widows, with their children - back to Canada. They made the journey safely, but we weren't certain of that, and thought that Grace was lost, when we learned in June that the same hospital ship - LLANDOVERY CASTLE - crowded again with nursing sisters, wounded men, and dependents women and children - had been torpedoed off the Irish coast, and all lives lost. Not until July 9, did we see the list, and know that Grace had not been on LLANDOVERY CASTLE on that fatal voyage. Her letter to me from Canada confirmed that.

I was in France then. Pagie and I received our first warning the morning of May 6, that we were to proceed to France, and twenty-four hours later had reported to the Matron-in-chief in London. At Eastbourne, our Matron had her own way of telling me. She appeared suddenly in the operating room where I was on duty. "Well, Sister Matheson, the axe is laid to the neck of the goose. You're to proceed to France."