

December

Thursday 20

1917

Wakened early. Poor Ewing is sick. Also Reid & both Walkers. Page at breakfast looks miserable. Walked deck for 2 hours. Slept for an hour before lunch. Had afternoon tea with White, Chris, George & Jeff. The boys were sent. Butler, Grundy and Lawler, Ransome arrived Halifax. 5 P.M. Walked deck with Mr Butler until 6.45 P.M. and again after dinner. The Soldier Boys sang and sang.

Friday 21

This morning five more lists arrived from Halifax thus 62 in party now. Ten boys taken off to get one pneumonia.

Saw Grampian and some Aviators could distinguish none.

We left Halifax at 9.30 P.M. Again that awful feeling about leaving Canada. Saw several porpoises.

Went to bed 10.30 P.M.

Played "Rummy" to Reid Page Miss Birt and Mr Hoste. All ordered to wear life Belts.

December

Friday 28

1917

"Here we are again! Feel fine.
 Johnnie Walker has married old.
 Went down on lower deck. Gave
 fruit & candy to boys - much
 appreciated. Had busy in Ordeley Room
 again. Colonel Gould White to afternoon tea
 Resigned as "Honorary Godfather" Page &
 I slept for 2 hrs. Out on deck. Dad
 had his hatman polish my buttons. Concert
 in evening attended by Officers A.S.
 V.R.D. and O.C. Called by the three Leads.

Saturday 29

Up at 6.30 A.M. Out on deck for
 1/2 In danger zone now. Boat lowered.
 Guards changed. Carrying rifles.
 Conway met us at 9 A.M.
 Boat drill as usual at 7.45 P.M.
 all family out to afternoon tea.
 Courtney complains of sore throat.
 Out on deck after dinner.
 Danced in forenoon. "Bill" dandy
 boy. Finished pt. mittens.
 Letter from Milton Crowley. Page & I
 on lower deck, gave fruit to sick boys.

It was on the 21st. of December that we sailed from Halifax. We became used to our life=belts, and to the daily boat-drill. On the 29th. we were definitely in the danger zone. Life-boats had to be lowered, and most vigilant guard maintained. Our convoy met us early that day. Then at noon on the 30th. we sighted Ireland, and our convoy was increased. We began to pack our possessions, and were suddenly sad for all the friends we must leave. "The Family" would be scattered.