

PART III

Aug 2nd 1917. Came to stay in Morastir. Room on first floor of building kindly lent by Dr Haigh. Took Matron to see the cellars etc at Bulgarian school

Aug 3RD. Continued house- to house visitation with Miss H., asking how many families and persons, who sick, conditions of house, water supply, privies etc. Gave anaesthetics where necessary at hospital, day or night.

When shells fall in the town, take refuge in cellar, ~~with~~ either at Blue House or Hospital. Miss Frazer at Blue House: renew acquaintance very carefully. About Aug 12th she is replaced by Miss Graham.

Have various interviews with the Prefet: suggest the necessity for supplying ruskiks where refugees are living in shops not so provided. Distribute tickets for milk, food, or soap, as judged necessary.

Aug 17th. Out in town all morning as usual, and see Magasin where soap distributor takes place. About 3, while resting, disturbed by rear shelling which continued till about 4.30. Then in an interval made a bee-line for Hospital, and just after arrival tremendous shelling began, of the town itself, and went on for several hours. Some of the shells were incendiary, and fires sprang up suddenly in various quarters. In lulls of the firing I went upstairs and watched the flames spreading higher and springing up in fresh places. We prepared as well as we could for wounded and burned, but while the shelling was in progress none could be brought to us. About 9.30, after well up to 1500 shells had fallen, it ceased, and then a few wounded were brought, no burn cases. We operated on two, though a few more shells began to fall while we were at work. Then about 12.30 it all seemed quiet, and I went to lie down on my bed. I did not undress, expecting further cases to need attention, but went off to sleep, to be awakened about 1.15 by loud explosions quite rear. I tried to take no notice, but a loud whistle made me sit up, and I saw and heard an explosion not far from my window. That was enough. I felt that the next might come through, so as soon as I thought no more pieces would fall, shook myself free of dust, seized my shoes, and fled outside the room, scooted along the passage and down in to the cellar. Only a very few more fell, but they were very rear. Then a case requiring immediate operation came in, and finally about 3.30 I got to bed again. But the bed was in the cellar that time, and I slept soundly for three hours. On the whole the number of wounded and killed by that bombardment and fire was extraordinarily small, not more than 60 all told I think, and about 30 of those were dug out from the debris of house. No case of burns came to the hospital for treatment.

Aug 18th. Went out to see the ruins. Dreadful destruction of a large slice of the town, walls half fallen, half standing, flames still here and there, sometimes behind shop fronts, some in wood in the cracks of walls. All hot and much smoke still. Signs here and there of a sudden rush, - pot of potatoes knocked over and half buried rifles near, - two dead and decomposing horses, hurt in a stable, - two evidently killed in the street and lying still. People with what they could collect of their belongings "isbegling" on the road and French automobiles helping to take away refugees. Even the soup kitchen not patronised, till the boy was sent out to tell all there was food to be had there, - general disorganization.

In the afternoon more operations, removing pieces of bomb and so on.

Sent 3rd. Wakened at 6.35 by heavy firing, but decided sleepily that our side was doing the firing and like the sluggard turned over. Came down to breakfast about 7.40 to find a long envelope, brought from Sorovich during the night. Hoped it was mail, but

was taken aback at finding the ORDER OF ST SAVA, 4th Class. Very pretty decoration. Glad to have it as a recognition from the Serbs.

Did outpatients most of the morning, and went out visiting in the houses in the afternoon. Found a pitiable couple, - old man and daughter, latter phthisis, former probably dysentery, lying side by side on a wooden balcony.

After dinner went upstairs and watched artillery firing by our guns posted on all the hills round the town. Wonderful to see flash after flash, flash after flash, and see also the rockets, red and green, and the flares on both sides of the hills. About 9 a few return shells sent us hurriedly downstairs, and by and by the firing ceased. About 10 I was on my way to bed when crash, crash, shells again, but not very near. However I decided to wait before undressing and went down again. About 11 the car, which had started out on a combined business and pleasure trip at 1.30, returned. It had broken down at least ten times, and never got to the intended village. However, they had been out of the town all the afternoon, and that was something.

EVENTS of the Day: ST SAVA : BATTLESCENE.

Tuesday 4th Sept. Quiet day. Outpatients in morning: two diphtheria queries admitted. Afternoon anaesthetics. Evening: Outdoor patients got caught by an old woman whose daughter is neurotic: ah well, I saw several other more deserving cases at the same time. Quiet day, practically no firing.

Wed. 5th Sept. Overslept to 7.15: wakened by Jack saying in a dream "You'd better get up, it's eight o'clock and that man may come at any time". Funny, wasn't it? Dressed hastily. Out patients rather crowded. A bad general diphtheria admitted to isolation. After dinner took Sister Butler to see 130 V. Putnik (and my unexploded bomb), and afterwards up to 4 Primorska, my gypsy Court found one child being bathed, and another with either severe chickenpox or moderate smallpox. Wrote to Dr Schneersser. After tea went a wild goose chase for a patient. Came in and wrote up Diary. A few shells. After dinner a good quiet talk with Dr Naigh and got rearer understanding the lie of the land.

Sept 6th. Quiet night. Comparatively few out patients. Went to see old man and girl, both very bad. Letters from Jack, and Mabel. I'm getting very lonesome.

Sept 7th. Quiet day. Went to see Miss Matthews and heard much of interest about the History of Monastir. Later paid visits in the Kbalj Markovich district.

Sept 8th. Mabel's birthday: Mary Happy Returns. Good number of out patients. Took in a bad Carcraun Oris and a dysentery. A satisfactory visiting hour also. Later went with Woolley and two Sisters to find out what time Sunday Mass.

Sept 9th. Didn't sleep well, - fleas. Caught three big ones finally, and their nephew. Out patients satisfactory till 11.30, then two anaesthetics: little Turkish boy, stone in urethra and bladder: took it beautifully. 2, Costa, a special pet, chose to stop breathing and go grey black: frightened me horribly but came round.

Sept 10th. Nothing very special. Out patients and visiting. Well very lazy.

Sept 11th. Mr Blacksall told me of his friendship with Alfred Wackerzie: nice to meet mutual friends. Shelling on the hills but not the town. Thought I was in for malaria.

Sept 13th. Outpatients. Sister mader a brick. Visiting in the afternoon. Milk kitchen to open again. A shower.

Sept 15th Out patients in the morning without Sister. Then took Woolley into the town through the ruins and to the Bulgarian school. Mary malaria. A wee ptlisis. A family just moved in, their house shelled yesterday, a child beheaded, a girl killed, and the mother struck by a piece of shell. Told her to come to the Hospital for dressing. After a youngster turned up at the Hospital with sever fly larvae in the ear. Dr Haigh put in CMCCL5 and then syringed them out. Much shelling going on: saw one house blow up, and also a huge explosion, either some ammunition or else the very biggest shell I have ever seen. Our guns replying.. Don't seem to have malaria, but require a Castellani in the mornings to keep me safe.

Sept 14th. Milk kitchen opened so giving out tickets: a great comfort when dealing with sick children. Very badly wounded woman brought in: too much shock for operation.

Sept 15th Woman died in the night. Out patients as usual. Wondering when I shall get Dr H. away.

Sept 16th. Sunday. Spiritual Communion. Gracious Lord.

Out patients all morning, four small operations after dinner. Suggested that I would go down to Sorovich tomorrow and try to arrange to stay here till the end of the month.

Sept 17th After one or two little things and a few O.P.'s (Dr H. did the rest) I started for Sorovich: delightful day: taking a boy and girl with me as patients. Arrived just in time for lunch. Matron very kind, also Dr B. found a car had just started for Morastir taking up a mail with a parcel for me, all sorts of good things: also a letter saying I was not needed at Brod till the first week in October, - so ripe plums do occasionally drop into one's mouth. Delightful ride back in the evening, and found the parcel very satisfactory. It had been posted July 3rd and I had given it up. Films.

Sept 18th Nothing very special. Out patients, a little visiting. Went up the hill and watched shelling for a time: beautiful view, lovely colouring on the hills at sunset. Took two photos of bursting shells in the distance, but don't know if they will come out.

Sept 19th. Came down to breakfast to find Dr H. gone off by a sudden chance for two days, so left in charge. Had few patients for admission many, so some refused, some admitted, some discharged. Admitted a leg in erysip. condition up to groin, a laryngeal diphtheria, a double pneumonia, and a query typhoid. Proposed to send two to Sorovich, a "Stari Baba" with an inflamed eye, whose age varied in the few hours she was with us from 93 to 107!! and a boy: but the Chauffeur had disappeared. After some long wait decided it could not be done, when suddenly a car arrived from Sorovich, bringing back a woman and a child belonging to Monastir, and a child from "Suvodal". The latter I tried to send home, but no record of her is in the books, and Suvodal is a village in the trench lines which cannot be approached: so it is a wee refugee and at present has to stay here. Tried hard to discharge "Tetany", a four year old of most engaging qualities and bad temper, but her people have moved. Altogether a lively day. Had to refuse admittance to another "Stari": we can't have too many left on our hands.

Sept 20th. Quieter day. Leg case somewhat improved early but temp 105 later Dr H. returned about 7 and recommended Anti Strep serum, large dose.

Sept 21st. Out patients. Aeroplane overhead, much shooting. This is so much a daily occurrence one hardly notices it. Later shell. One "tesco ranger" twelve operators.

Very seedy and disturbed all night: got up reeling

rotter and aren't eat anything all day. Arrowroot (water) and brandy at night. Some shells, but nothing rear. C & O C.

Set 33rd. Disturbed night, but less so: improving: promoted to milk pudding in the evening. French surgeon "Casquet" came to dinner: no news, but quite pleasant and quite agreeable to help in Dr H's absence.

Sept 33rd. Still improving, returning to biscuits etc. A drowned mouse in my basin when I got up, the fourth since I came here. Out patients in the morning, in the afternoon rest, and then after tea to visit a case of erysipelas. House locked up. Oh, these people! Chatted with Sisters Wier and Lynn Jones. Car came up from Sorovich with Sister Rankin, bringing news that Grey appointed "Director Medical and Civil work, and on his way out. Also that "our baby" had died the day before. It was such a healthy, jolly little thing, and only ill three days, I think. It was certainly quite well when I saw it on Monday.

Sept 34th. Didn't sleep a wink till 3.30 or so: can't think why. About two a.m. a mouse splashed into my basin. I thought someone had upset a petrol tin, but soon jumped to what had happened and closed my ears. Sure enough all was soon quiet and a drowned mouse there this morning.

Normal breakfast, during which an aeroplane rapidly descending in irregular fashion swooped past. French. Soon after three Boche were overhead and antiaircraft shooting, but no result and no bombs. During the day an occasional very heavy gun, and now and then mitrailleuse and rifles. Yesterday the "Paper bag" was busy several times: it does *make* one jump. Wrote to Jack, and began letter to Constance. Erysipelas case turned up again.

Sept 25th. Took on Ward as well as Outpatients. Dr H. away trying to arrange for pass, etc. Aeroplanes overhead but no bombs. Shelling the outskirts. My little diphtheria boy very white and feeble afraid we shall lose him: paralysis spreading. During O.P a "novoranger" brought in. A man putting sticks of fire had his hand blown up to middle joints of thumb, first and second fingers: left hand fortunately. Sent in to bed rather collapsed, and after lunch gave CHCL3 and cleared and arranged stumps: gave anti-tetanic. Visited Erysipelas case, temp 103.

Sept 26th. Some shelling on the outskirts. "Paper bag" busy. Opened up ail's leg for drainage: foul pus.

Sept 27th. Got up with slight sore throat: increased, temp 99 at midday, after lunch increasing to 100 - 101.4. Went to tea with Miss Matthews in the garden but feeling rotten. Finished the Ward, then temp 102, so told Dr H, got my throat swabbed and went to bed, gargle and so on all complete: likewise aspirin 10 gr.

Sept 28th. Waked feeling much better, but nasty yellow patches on pharynx: temp down but rose again during morning. Swab positive diphtheria, so Serum 8000 Units about 3. Very uncomfortable. Persuaded Dr H. to let Dr Coxon run it in his absence and wire for her. So he came to see how I was and say Goodbye about 10,30 p.m.

Sept 29th. Feeling better though very sore serum. Dr C arrived about 3, and I protested against removal, then at any rate.

Sept 30th. Brought down to Sorovich on stretcher, very tired but all right. Dr MacLaren brought me, and very kind.