

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
from the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1916

1916

Jan.

At Bateman's, mostly visits from young men. Rupert Grayson, Teddy Price, Oliver Baldwin.



*Young Irish Guards officers, 2nd Battalion, Warley 1915
Lt. Grayson top left, Lt. Kipling on ground in front, second from left*

Rupert Grayson was one of John's friends from the Irish Guards – he had been wounded and was back in England. Teddy Price was 'Uncle Crom's' son and Oliver Baldwin was John's cousin. All had been John's companions in war and peace.

Jan. 1

It is with a small reserve of courage I start this year.

Clearly, these were Carrie's own words.

Jan. 2

Rud writes a New Year Greeting to the Russians at their request.

26 Jan. Raemaekers, cartoonist, calls

Louis Raemaekers (1869-1956) was a Dutch artist and cartoonist for the influential Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf.

He was strongly anti-German, and his Editor was pro-French, at a time when many Dutch, in a general way, tended to support Germany. His cartoon below echoed Kipling's own comments on German brutality.



Louis Raemaekers



28 Jan. John's kit arrives.

1 Feb. To the Empire Hotel, Bath. She takes the cure, he visits soldiers in hospital.

The hotel building built in 1901, still stands, but is now flats and a restaurant. Nikolaus Pevsner, the architectural historian, describes it as a "monstrosity and an unbelievable piece of pompous architecture.."

Feb. 1 We go to Bath, arriving at 6.30. (Many blank pages.)

Feb. 28 We leave by train for Cirencester. Rud goes to say Good-bye to his friend in Hospital who he has seen almost daily.

There are two pencilled notes in an unknown hand: one, referring to Cirencester says “Why” [answer, probably to visit the Bathursts]; the second gives a name ‘Arthur Green’ to “his friend in Hospital”.

Arthur Green was a Private in the Somerset Light Infantry who was, in Kipling’s words “a hopeless cripple in the Mineral Waters Hosp. here” (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 4, p.361, notes 1 and 2). He had been a prisoner of war, but had been repatriated on account of the severity of his wounds. He wrote an account of life in a German PoW camp and showed it to Kipling who had it copied and sent to H A Gwynne of the Morning Post.

Mar 2 Leave for London.

3 Mar. Rud and I to Henry Jones’s (James’s) funeral.

Mar. 3 Rud and I go to Henry James’s funeral.

Their old friend Henry James (see Index) had died on February 28, at his London home. An obituary appeared in The Times, 29 February, and the funeral was announced in the Court Circular for the same day, as taking place in Chelsea Old Church at 2 p.m. James was born an American but had lived and written in England for many years. He had become a British citizen a year earlier.



4 Mar. Dined with Mr. Jameson at the Ritz.

We assume that this was his South African friend and associate – but he was properly Sir Leander Jameson, having been created a Baronet in 1911

15 Mar. Rud and Elsie go to the movies, war pictures. (First time, I think.)

It is interesting that Carrie uses the American phrase ‘movies’, despite not having lived in America since their general introduction; the earliest use of the word recorded in the OED is in 1909.. Although the diaries do not record any such visit, it seems possible that Kipling (though not Elsie) had seen an early moving-picture show, to have been able to give a description of one in ‘Mrs. Bathurst’ (written in 1903/04.)

He patronises Green, a soldier story-teller with £25.

‘Patronise’ is used in the original (16th century) meaning ‘to act as a patron towards’. The present usage ‘to assume an air of superiority towards’ dates only from 1820 (OED). See our note of [Jan. 28](#) above.

Mar. 23 A lady came down from London to discuss our offer of Rye Green farmhouse for a hostel for women’s labour.

Rye Green Farmhouse lay about 600 yards south of Bateman’s, just the other side of ‘the brook’ (the little River Dudwell). With so many men serving in the armed forces, there was a serious shortage of labour on the farms, which were so necessary to keep the country supplied with food, on the face of the German submarine campaign. The Board of Agriculture had started to organise women to work on the land in 1915, and on 1 January 1917, the Women’s Land Army was formed.

Mar. 25 All busy over Dudwell and its preparation for a wounded officer.

Dudwell Farm (now part of the Kipling's land – see our note of Dec. 1904) lay half a mile east of Batemans. The farmhouse was evidently untenanted at this time.

Apr. Rud doing some propoganda for the Admiralty on the submarine war. He begins his St. Peter Story.

*“His propoganda for the Admiralty” was three articles, published in The Times in June under the general title ‘Tales of the Trade’ (see (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, p.363, and notes). See also our NRG notes on Sea Warfare. “His St. Peter Story” is ‘On the Gate: a tale of `16’ (see our NRG notes on this tale, which had quite a complex gestation.)*

May 3 A buy day furnishing Dudwell Farm House for our guests who arrive in the evening – a wounded officer and his young wife.

17 May Shopping in London. Rud lunches with Amery to meet Hughes the Australian Premier and Mark Sykes.

*William Morris Hughes
(‘Billy’)(1862-1952) was the then
Labour Party prime minister
of Australia.*



‘Billy’ Hughes

Amery (see Index) was Leopold Amery who had recently come back from Salonika where he had been serving as an Intelligence Officer. He had just been appointed, through Lord Milner's good offices, as an Assistant Secretary in the War Cabinet Secretariat, and it seems likely that it was in that capacity that he was hosting Hughes. Mark Sykes was Sir Mark Sykes (1879-1919) who was an expert in Middle East affairs.



Leo Amery



Mark Sykes

May 31 Busy preparing Dudwell, Mr. Savill having left with his wife.

His wife's name was 'Vi' – short for 'Violet' – see PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 4, p.403, and note 3.

June Rud working on a film scenario – not satisfied (I think it is *The Light that Failed.*) (See below, **June 12**)

June 1 Our new guests come to Dudwell. Lt. Hall, his wife and mother and sister-in law. Nice folk. Lt. Hall a great nerve wreck from shell-shock and gas-poisoning – ill since Sept. 28 last, the Battle of Loos.

June 5 News of Lord Kitchener being drowned comes by wire in the p.m.

See Index for the Kiplings' earlier meeting with Kitchener, and their views. Kitchener was the Secretary of State for War, and had been sent on a mission to Russia. He took passage in the armoured cruiser Hampshire from Scapa Flow: shortly after leaving Scapa, in appalling weather, Hampshire struck a mine laid by a German submarine a week earlier.



Loss of life was very heavy, only 12 men ultimately being saved. Kitchener and all his staff were lost. It would seem that the Kiplings subscribed to a news agency (“comes by wire”). Considering that Hampshire sank at 19.45, and that the report of the sinking did not reach the Admiralty until 1030, 6 June, being released to the public at 1340 (see The Times, 7 June 1916) we may doubt the date of this entry – 6 June seems more likely.

June 12 Rud looks through the scenario of *The Light [that Failed]* arranged for cinema. Not satisfied and it is returned for the second time.

13 June To St. Paul’s for the Kitchener Memorial service. Then evening service at the Abbey where ‘*Recessional*’ is sung, [A heart-breaking day.](#)

June 13 Rud and I to St. Pauls to the Kitchener Memorial Service and in the afternoon with Elsie to the evening service at the Abbey. We get seats in the choir and are in sight of the Irish Guards platoon and hear the *Recessional* sung for the first time. A heart-breaking day.

Tickets to attend the Memorial Service (which was attended by the King and Queen) were allocated by the War Office. It seems likely that the Kiplings received their tickets through their association with the Irish Guards, of which Kitchener was Colonel-in-Chief. Because the desire for seats far outstripped the capacity of St. Pauls, Westminster Abbey’s service of evensong was “altered to give it a memorial character. It was essentially a popular service” (The Times).

*The Abbey was crowded – there were no tickets – and the doors had to be closed “some time before the start of the service”, but the Kiplings had reserved seats, probably because ‘Recessional’ was to be performed. (The Times, “After the grace, the *Recessional* of Mr. Kipling (who was among those present) was sung”).*

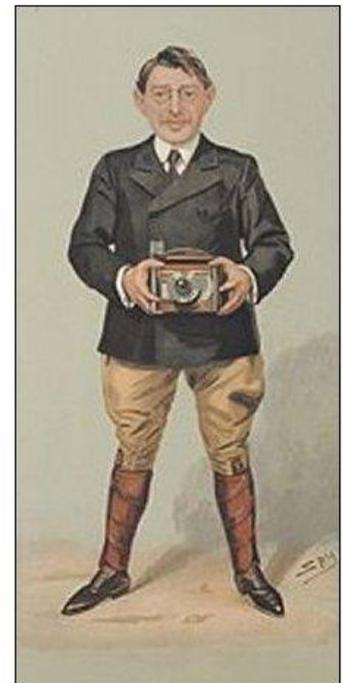
Brian Mattinson in NRG (Kipling and Music) confirms that the setting was the hymn tune ‘Melita’ written in 1861 by J B

Dykes. It is interesting that Carrie had evidently not previously heard 'Recessional' sung: some 30 of Brian Mattinson's list of settings dated from before this occasion.

18 June M.I consults him about handing out intelligence to neutrals, [45 minutes late for lunch.](#)

June 19 Major Sidney Goldman, Intelligence Department, brings Brigadier-General Cockerill for Rud to give help about how best to give out intelligence to neutrals and at home.

Although recorded on two separate days, these are evidently the same event. (M.I. meant Military Intelligence.) We believe that Major Sidney Goldman was probably Major Charles Sydney Goldman (1868-1958), a South African, who had been a special correspondent in the Boer War and was now a Unionist MP at Westminster. He held a commission as a Major in a Territorial regiment.



Sydney Goldman, by 'Spy'

Brigadier-General Cockerill was George, later Sir George (1867-1957) who was at this time Deputy Director of Military Operations and Military Intelligence, and Director of Special Intelligence.



Sir George Cockerill

23 June Max Aitken tips them the wink about a forthcoming battle in France.
(June 1916. They still have not lost hope.)

This was the Battle of the Somme, launched on 1 July to relieve the pressure on the French. As a battle, it was inconclusive, with no appreciable gains being made, but with a cost of 20,000 dead on the first day alone. As such, it is now part of Britain's collective memory of the folly of war.

However, considered as part of a six-month-long campaign, the British and French advanced six miles on a sixteen mile front, but more importantly, they destroyed what remained of the army with which Germany entered the war – the German equivalent in skill-at-arms of the British Expeditionary Force from the Regular Army that had fought the battles of 1914, the 'Old Contemptibles'.

June 26 Rud starts on some Indian letters from men who have been at the front.
The framework of his material being printed copies sent him, through Sir Dunlop Smith, of Indian soldiers' letters which passed through the censor's hands.

This work appeared as a series of imaginary letters, published first in the USA in 1917, and later in the Morning Post in London, in 1918. Later they were collected in a booklet, The Eyes of Asia, published by Doubleday in New York, but were not collected in Britain until the posthumous publication of the Sussex Edition. (They have been recently re-published, in 2015, by Uniform Press, Ltd.) See our notes in NRG by Sharad Keskar and Anured Jain.



Sir James Dunlop Smith

'Sir Dunlop Smith was Sir James Robert Dunlop Smith (1858- 1921). A Political Officer in the Indian Army, he had been Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Lord Minto, 1905-1910 See the Index.

4 July Col. Cunliffe (OUSA) from Nigeria, visits.
Haymaking. *Eyes of Asia*.

*Col. Cunliffe was Frederick Hugh Gordon Cunliffe (1860-1955), at this time Commandant of the Nigeria Regiment, West Africa Frontier Force, which had been involved, in 1914, in chasing the Germans out of what is now Cameroon. He was an old boy of Kipling's school, the United Services College at Westward Ho! and evidently a contemporary, though five years older than Kipling. See PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, p.385-6, and notes.*

Haymaking was slightly late, seemingly.

July 14 A wire from Sir Douglas Brownrigg asking Rud to go and see him. Rud asks him to come down or write what he wants.

See our note of 19 Aug. below.

20 July Sir D. Brownrigg asks RK to visit him but RK insists he comes to Batemans.

July 20 Sir Douglas Brownrigg and a friend for lunch.

Aug. 17 John's 19th birthday. He landed in France a year ago. Where will another year find us and when will this war end.

A poignant entry, the second half of which must have been echoed by many other mothers. They had another two years and three months to endure.

Aug. 22 Elsie goes to Dudwell and discovers quite by accident our guests there are leaving in the a.m.

Aug. 24 We go to Dudwell to take stock of the house. Everything in perfect order.

19 Aug He brings report of Jutland Battle for Rud to work on.

The dating of these events concerned with the writing of 'Destroyers at Jutland' (later included in Sea Warfare) is confused.

*Captain Sir Douglas Brownrigg was Chief Naval Censor throughout the war: he was also, effectively, head of public relations, and had commissioned the articles which were collected as The Fringes of the Fleet, (see PINNEY, **letters**, vol. 4, p.363).*



Sir Douglas Brownrigg

He now asked Kipling to write up aspects of the Battle of Jutland (31 May-1 June 1916): Kipling replied asking Brownrigg to come to Bateman's and Brownrigg duly came: "I then collected all the reports, which filled a large dispatch box, and proceeded to invade Mr. Kipling in his country house." (Indiscretions of a Naval Censor, Cassell, 1920). But he only came once.

25 Aug. Teddy Price gets a commission in the 5th Sussex

Aug. 25 Teddy Price come from Rye after he had seen the Col. of the 5th Sussex asking for a commission after Rud has written asking that it may be given.

For Teddy Price, see Index. Even at this stage of the war, when conscription had been introduced, and officers were being commissioned from many sources, some regiments evidently still made use of the old system of personal recommendation to select their officers.

Sep. Rud in pain.
Writing to p of ws [*prisoners of war*] in Switzerland for news.

A number of prisoners of war of war, mostly those who had been severely wounded, were either repatriated, or exchanged, through Switzerland, which remained neutral throughout the war. Presumably they had found a number of Irish Guardsmen among them.

Sep. 16 Rud has less pain and is out of doors most of the day.

He suffered recurrent pain over the years from undiagnosed duodenal ulcers.

Sep. 20 Rud and Elsie put Dudwell in order. Our new guests, Mr. Warburton and his wife arrive in the afternoon. He has a severe head wound, is a Canadian but fighting in a Manchester Regiment.

*(See PINNEY, **letters**, vol. 4, p.403 – Kipling describes the officer's wife in unflatteringly snobbish terms, but suggests that she is good at heart, although he supposes her to have been a barmaid.*

16 Oct. All three to London. To a music hall with Lord Milner, Lady Edward and the Salisburys.

For Milner, Lady Edward (Cecil) and "the Salisburys", see Index. This late middle-aged party must have been a little conspicuous – the music halls were mostly filled with the young fighting men on leave and their girls.

A visit to Cambridge. Oliver Baldwin.

Oct. 21 We leave for Cambridge at 11. Oliver Baldwin lunches and dines with us at the Bull.

*Oliver Baldwin (see Index) was serving in the Cadet Battalion at Cambridge (formerly the Cambridge Officer Training Corps). He was still too young to join the Irish Guards, which he did in 1917. (See PINNEY, **letters**, vol. 4, p.403 for a letter from Kipling to Oliver whom he addresses as 'Buttons')*

Oct. 23 Reach London from Cambridge about lunch time.

Oct. 25 Return home by the 1.48.

27 Oct. To the Mass for the Irish Guards at Westminster Cathedral.

7 Nov. To town to a Maple Leaf meeting taking Teddy Price who was
Gazetted last night to the 4th Sussex Regiment.

*Carrie had evidently either not carried out her intention
to resign from the committee of the Maple Leaf Club – see our
entries for 28 Nov. and Nov. 28 1915 – or had allowed herself
to be persuaded not to.*

13 Nov. I busy, as I have been for days, with Teddy Price. He leaves for T.
Wells (*Tunbridge Wells*) to join his Regiment.

*Rudyard was ‘Uncle Ruddy’ to Teddy Price; but it doesn’t
sound as though she was ‘Aunt Carrie’. It must have required
all her fortitude to be ‘mothering’ Teddy Price, rather than her
own son.*

28 Nov. In London. Some bombs dropped.
He does not keep his birthday.

*This is where the entry appears – but his birthday was not until
30 December.*

Nov. 28 I to my meeting of Maple Leaf Club. A number of bombs dropped in
London

*A report in The Times of 29 November states that “a single
aeroplane did succeed in landing half a dozen bombs in
London proper . . .the damage was insignificant”. The aircraft
was shot down by the French on its return, and proved to have
been manned by two German Naval lieutenants.*

Dec. 17 We go to town in a.m. to the christening of Lt. Grayson's son at the Guards' Chapel in the afternoon, Rud being godfather. (*Grayson, a friend of John's had been on several visits to Bateman's – see our first entry for this year.*)

For Rupert (later Sir Rupert) Grayson (1897-1991) (see our entries for 17 July 1915 and January 1916). See also, PINNEY, Letters, vol. 4, p.342-3 for a letter from Kipling to Grayson. He became an occasional visitor to Bateman's after the war.

The Guards' Chapel is in Wellington Barracks, near to Buckingham Palace.

21 Dec. He opens the new Maple Leaf Club with a speech.

In fact, the Duke of Connaught opened three new Maple Leaf Clubs in one ceremony, and Kipling spoke to second the vote of thanks to the Duke. There is a report of the event in The Times, 22 December 1916. Kipling's text is to be found in NRG under "Uncollected Speeches".

Dec. 23 Rud's poem, 'A Nativity', published in the *Daily Telegraph*, who send a cheque for £50 to 'The Officers' family Fund.'

It is suggested that this poem is a memorial to their son, far more than 'My Boy Jack'. It is collected in The Years Between.

(Undated) Christmas almost normal again.

[C.K./C.C./D.R.//A.J.W./J.R.]