

The Carrington and Rees Extracts  
from the diaries of  
Caroline Kipling

1917

1917

Jan.

Bateman's  
Roderick Jones of Reuter's discussing propaganda.  
Proofs of *A Diversity of Creatures*.

*Roderick Jones, their former  
Africa correspondent, had  
become Managing Director  
of the great Reuters news  
agency the previous year.*

*For previous encounters  
see the Index.*



*Roderick Jones*

**Jan. 3** Miss Chamberlain (secretary) returns from her holiday to the distress of all the family who have really enjoyed the rest from her inadequacy.

17 Jan. Asked to write the Regimental History.  
Rud ill.

**Jan. 17** Our 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Rud, after a morning in bed, goes to H.Q. Irish Guards to talk over a proposal that he writes the history of the war for the Regiment.

*These two entries are examples of the differences between  
Carrington and Rees. Although both describe the same diary  
entry, the implications are subtly different.*

2 Feb. Elsie comes of age **and all the coming of age we shall have in the family now.**

Feb. 2 Elsie is 21 today. A quiet coming of age and all the coming of age we shall have in our little family now.

Feb. 6 We lunch at Brown's and leave for Bath, Empire Hotel.

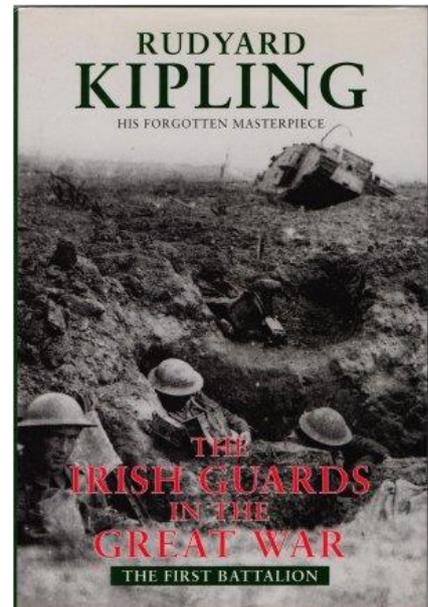
7 Feb. To Bath in bitter cold. Rud spends an hour daily in an old bookshop.

*They were in Bath again for Carrie to take the cure. (This Editor has spent several happy hours in Bath's second-hand bookshops.)*

3 Mar. Going to London. Carrie hurt in a taxi smash.  
Irish Guards verses.  
Rud settles down to Irish Guards history.

*The 'Irish Guards verses' were the poem entitled 'The Irish Guards', which was completed and published in early 1918 – see our entry for 28 January 1918.*

*The 'Irish Guards history' occupied Kipling for the next five years, being published in 1923 in two volumes with the title The Irish Guards in the Great War. This image shows a recent (1997) edition published by Spellmount Ltd.*



Mar. 3 We leave for London. A smash in our taxi on the way to the hotel which ought to have been fatal to us both but only cut my face and gave me a dreadful bump on my head.

*In a letter to 'Stalky' (PINNEY. Letters, Vol 4, pp 426-7), Kipling wrote, "We've just come up to town from a month in Bath which is a large cold piss-pot full of the aged and overfed. The wife was taking a cure there but had to stop it as she broke down and was very ill. She's better now but it wasn't a cheerful experience for any of us."*

Apr. Rud writes verses and lunches at the Pilgrims when USA enters the war. *'The Choice'*.

*The USA entered the war on 6 April 1917, declaring war on Germany (but not Austria-Hungary until December 1917, and never against Bulgaria and the Turkish Empire). Kipling wrote about the event to his Canadian correspondent, Andrew Macphail (PINNEY. Letters, Vol 4, pp 435-6).*

*The Pilgrims, founded in 1902, were – and still are – an Anglo-American organisation devoted to promoting Anglo-American good fellowship.*

*'The Choice' was a poem written to celebrate America's joining, as Kipling saw it, the free peoples. It was published in the Daily Telegraph, and the New York Times on April 13. (See the notes in PINNEY. Poems, Vol II, p. 1514 and in NRG.*

Apr. 12 Rud not fit to go to London for the Pilgrims dinner to celebrate the (belated) entrance of the USA into the war.

*Either the Pilgrims held two events to mark America's entrance into the war – or else either Rees or Carrington mis-read the diaries.*

Apr. 15 We arrange with Mr. Landon about taking over his furniture at a valuation of £600 (£400 of which we have paid him.)

*Perceval Landon, an old friend, was giving up his tenancy of Keylands, a cottage on the Bateman's estate. See Index.*

17 Apr. (A) *Diversity of Creatures* published.

Apr 17 The new book is out *The (A) Diversity of Creatures*).

*This was his first collection of tales since Actions and Reactions in 1909.*

Apr. 18 Miss Pilson who has been dairy-maid since Xmas gives notice. She leaves to start a small-holding. Madness when things are so expensive. A fool and her money are soon parted.

*War-time inflation had indeed increased prices substantially, after a long period of Victorian and Edwardian price stability. But Miss Pilson was also 'ahead of the game': in the 1920s, the small-holding movement prospered, as returning servicemen were eager to be their own masters, and live away from the urban slums.*

**May 1** Elsie and I meet the new people for Dudwell at the station and take them to the house. Mr. Marks and wife. He an R.A, she an American. He an invalid since last September with dysentery. Rud and Mr. Landon leave for Folkestone.

*In this case, the R.A, indicates Royal Artillery.*

*Kipling was going off on another journalistic commission, this time at the Italian front. Italy had been a member of the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary since 1882, but had opted out of joining the other two in the general war in 1914. She declared war on Austria-Hungary in May 1915 and against Germany in August 1916 .*

2-17 May Rud goes to Italy.

**May 4** Rud at Modani

*Modane is the frontier town in France, on the border with Italy.*

**May 5** Rud arrives in Rome.

**May 8** Rud leaves Rome for Udine.

**May 9** Rud arrives at Udine on his way to the front.

*Udine is a city in north-east Italy, close to what is now the border of Slovenia, but was then the border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.*

**May 17** Rud returns looking browner and more fit.  
(Note. Full details of this trip are to be found in the Kipling correspondence. )

*The result of this visit was a series of five articles, published in the Daily Telegraph and the New York Tribune between 9 and 20 June 1917, and later collected in the Sussex and Burwash*

*editions of Kipling's works. They have also recently (2015) been published as a single book. See our NRG notes by Peter Lewis The War in the Mountains, together with Kipling's text.*

*Kipling's letters home have been published in PINNEY. Letters, Vol 4, pp 445-464).*

28 May Stan comes from Bonar Law to say that the PM **will give him pretty much any honour he will accept. Rud says he will not accept any.**

*Stan was, of course, Kipling's cousin, Stanley Baldwin. Bonar Law, then Leader of the Conservative party, was Chancellor of the Exchequer in Lloyd George's coalition government, and Baldwin was his Private Parliamentary Secretary.*

May 28 Stan Baldwin comes from Bonar Law informally to say the Prime Minister will give Rud pretty much any honour he will accept. Rud says he will not accept any.

6 June Rud dining with S.B. (*Stanley Baldwin*) hears a rumour he is to be one of the new KBEs. Warns Bonar Law **it must not be.**

June 6 Rud to the House of Commons to see Stan Baldwin. He hears a rumour at his Clubs that his name is on the list of the new Order of the Empire and sees Bonar Law's secretary as B-L is away ill. Secretary assures him his name will not be sent in without consulting him and Rud warns him it must not be.

*King George V instituted the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire on 4 June 1917, as an order of Chivalry to reward contributions to arts and sciences, work with charitable and welfare organisations, and public service outside the Civil Service. There are five classes, of which the Knight Commander (KBE) was the second senior.*

22 June G. Allen's funeral.  
(They see an airship, a balloon and 15 aeroplanes.)

*See Index for earlier entries on George Allen, A memorial service was held at St. Peter's, Eaton Square. He was only 54.*

1 July They stick him with a CH.  
Writing '*Mesopotamia*'.

*Daily Telegraph* won't print 'Mesopotamia'. He sends it to *Morning Post*.

(They have given up their car and hate going by train.)

July 1

Our day starts with a letter from the Secretary of the new Order, Companions of Honour, saying Rud's name is down. They have not consulted Rud and he wires to say so and adds he does not intend to accept. He also wires B-L to the same effect.

*The Order of the Companions of Honour was founded by King George V in June 1917, as a reward for outstanding achievements in the arts, literature, music, science, politics, industry, and religion. Its numbers are limited to 65, whereas the Order of the British Empire is not so strictly controlled. 'Mesopotamia', published simultaneously on 11 July in the Morning Post and New York Times was a poem of protest about the bungling and military ineptitude which had led to the surrender of the British forces at Kut-al-Amara on the river Tigris in Mesopotamia (today Iraq, but then one of the outer provinces of the Ottoman Empire). See our NRG notes by Julian Moore.*

July 11

Rud takes me to see Sir John Sutton Bland (*Bland-Sutton*) to make an examination. He reports I am only run down.

July 15

Rud and Mr. Landon to Burwash for a meeting called to form a committee to start the village memorial to Officers and men who have fallen in the war.

27 July.

They can hear heavy gunfire. [Passchendaele begins; about 100 miles away.]

Rud writing 'His Friend'. [(A) *Friend of the Family*].

*This tale was not published until 1924, and was collected in Debits and Credits.*

14 Aug.

Rud and H. Baker discuss plans for war graves.

*At this time, he had not been invited to join the Imperial War Graves Commission (see entry below for 6 Sep. and **Sep. 6**). Sir Herbert Baker, whom Kipling had known well since their days at the Cape (see Index), was one of the original architects appointed by the newly-constituted Commission.*

**Aug.16** Rud not at all well – troubled with his old pains which he has not had for many months.

*His ulcer was troubling him again.*

**Aug. 17** We leave for a fortnight's holiday – to Brown's for the night.

18 Aug. To Beaufront Castle, Northumberland to stay with Mrs, Harold Cuthbert

**Aug. 18** Arrive Newcastle and change for Hexham to stay with Mrs. Harold Cuthbert.

*Mrs Cuthbert was the widow of a Scots Guards' officer who had died from wounds received in France. He had previously been the Adjutant of John's battalion when he was under training, and Kipling had made his acquaintance then. (See PINNEY. **Letters**, Vol 4, pp 283-283, Note 3).*

19 Aug. To Hexham and to the Wall to see the stone\* of the XXXth Legion  
[\*afterwards shown to be a hoax.]

*In "On the Great Wall" in Puck of Pook's Hill (1906), the young Romano-British officer, Parnesius serves in the XXXth Legion. The Wall was Hadrian's Wall, which runs east to west across England from Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east, to Solway Firth in the west.*

*There have been a series of article in KJ (147, p. 22; 149, p. 26; and 206, p. 6) which show that the stone had been crudely altered from LEG. XX (who, it can be proved, had indeed served in Britannia, the Roman province of Britain.) to LEG XXX (of whom there is no evidence in Britannia – see particularly the article by Professor Rivers in KJ 206.)*

21 Aug. Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh.  
Trix now living in Edinburgh.

*The Caledonian Hotel was one of the two big hotels in Edinburgh. It was at the west end of Princes' Street in front of the Princes Street railway station of the Caledonian Railway – hence its name.*

**Aug. 21** We get a train to Edinburgh and stop at the Caledonian Hotel.

- 23 Aug. See the *Queen Elizabeth* in the Forth.
- HMS Queen Elizabeth was the flagship of Admiral Sir David Beatty, C-in-C of the Grand Fleet.*
- Aug. 24 Our visit is poisoned by Rud having his pain at frequent and uncertain intervals and feeling depressed between times.
- 26 Aug. Lunch with Col. Fleming and Trix.
- Fleming was Trix's husband.*
- 26 Aug. To lunch with Col. Fleming and Trix.
- Trix's mental health was still cause for concern.*
- 27 Aug. Jameson asks Rud to be a Rhodes' Trustee which he accepts. (Rud rather offended at being asked for a pass when invited to visit a ship. Beatty calls and apologises.)
- It is a measure of Kipling's public stature that the C-in-C himself called to apologise. We imagine that the ship was probably the Queen Elizabeth, and that possibly his host may have been Beatty himself.*
- Aug. 27 Rud to see Dr. Robinson, brain specialist, about Trix Fleming. He agrees to her coming to the farm house at Dudwell as a trial. A letter from Sir Starr Jameson offering Rud post of trustee in Rhodes Trust, left vacant by the resignation of Lord Gray. Rud accepts it being a bit of work he would like more than any other.
- See our entry for Sept 20, '17, regarding Trix The invitation to Kipling to join the Rhodes Trust as a Trustee was undoubtedly close to his heart, he having been in at the inception of the Rhodes scholarships. – see our entry for 1 Feb. '01.*
- Aug. 30 10 a.m train to London.
- Sep. 1 Home.
- 4 Sep. Cleopatra's Needle raid. [It has been recorded that RK was close by. At J M Barrie's flat in the Adelphi, but there is no evidence in the diary or elsewhere.]

*The scars can still be seen on the plinth and on one of the crouching lions which are on either side. There is no mention of Kipling being in London on the night of the raid in PINNEY. Letters, Vol. 4.*

6 Sep. Fabian Ware asks him to join the Graves Commission on behalf of Lord Derby.

Sep. 6 Brig. General Fabian Ware sends from Lord Derby an invitation to Rud to join a Royal Commission to deal with the graves of our dead in this war.

*Fabian Ware (later Sir Fabian, 1869-1949) had started life as a teacher in South Africa, but later became the Editor of the Morning Post (see our entry for 10 Dec. 1910). In 1914, he tried to join the Army but was told he was too old for active service, but helped by Lord Milner, was given command of a Red Cross Ambulance Unit.*



*Fabian Ware*

*Finding that there was no official organisation for recording the graves of war dead, he set up such an organisation within the Red Cross. Some two years later he proposed the setting up of an Imperial organisation. His proposal was accepted and the Imperial War Graves Commission was constituted by Royal Charter with the Prince of Wales as president, the Secretary of State for War (then Lord Derby) as the Chairman and Fabian Ware as Vice-Chairman (see PINNEY. Letters, Vol. 4, pp 470-71 and notes).*

Sep. 7 Rud decided to accept.

*The work for and with the Imperial War Graves Commission (now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) formed an important and nowadays little-recognised part of Kipling's work for the remainder of his life.*

20 Sep. Trix and a companion come to live at Dudwell.

Sep. 20 Busy preparing Dudwell for Trix Fleming and her companion who arrive at 4.15 to live there until Xmas.

*See entry for Aug. 27.*

29 Sep. Rud at his Masonic story. [( 'In the) Interests of the Brethren ' ]  
(I don't see when he went to any masonic meeting.)

2 Oct. Detained at Tunbridge Well by air raid warning on way to London.

4 Oct. Oliver Baldwin says he has talked to a sergeant [who saw John shot in the temple.](#)

Oct. 4 A letter from Oliver Baldwin who has talked to an IG sergeant who says he saw John shot in the temple and put him in a shell hole. He says what four others of John's platoon have said – that John was shooting Germans in the Farm House with his revolver.

*Oliver Baldwin, the son of Stanley Baldwin, had been commissioned in the Irish Guards four months earlier, in June . Evidently he had then made his own enquiries about his cousin's death.*

*He was a colourful character who had hated Eton, the fashionable school attended by the aristocracy. He did various jobs after the war including journalism and a spell in the Armenian army, and entered politics for a time as a Labour Member of Parliament.*



*Oliver Baldwin*

Oct. 6 Elsie and Rud to Col. Feilden to congratulate him on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*For Col. Feilden, see Index.*

Oct. 12 Cook, Mrs. Brett, and I decide to part and notice is given and accepted.

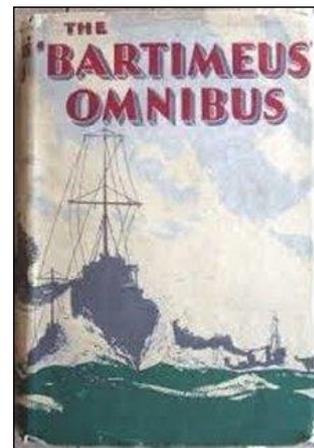
*As a general matter, finding servants was not easy during the war. For those with homes in urban areas, better-paid (frequently much better-paid) war work was available; and the shortage of male servants meant that those that remained and their female counterparts could command higher wages and pick and choose their situations.*

**Oct. 16** Rud after breakfast to Bushey to the OCT Guards Brigade where he delivers his lecture which he calls “The Magic Square (Note – it was a lecture on Drill.)

*The lecture/speech was collected as No. XIV in A Book of Words (see our NRG notes by Leonee Ormond).*

**Oct. 27** Mr. Ricci and wife to spend Sunday. Mr. Ricci writes under the name of Bartimeus.

*Mr Ricci was Staff Paymaster Lewis Ricci, Royal Navy (later Captain (S) Sir Lewis Ritchie (1886-1967)), who was then a Secretary in the Admiralty. He had joined the Navy as a Seaman officer, but failing eyesight caused his transfer to the Accountant branch, and was responsible for his assumption of the pen-name of ‘Bartimeus’.*



*At this time he had only written three books of naval short stories, but he went on to write many more, and official publications during WW 2, before becoming King George VI's Press Secretary, 1944-7)*

31 Oct. Robert Loraine comes o see Rud about a theatrical matter.  
(Rud on village War Memorial Committee.)

*Robert Loraine (1876-1935) was a successful theatre producer and actor, who was at this time commanding a Wing in the Royal Flying Corps in France.*

*He instituted amateur theatricals in France and Belgium to keep his men entertained, and it seems possible that he was trying to wheedle Kipling into giving his consent to something to do with performing some Kipling work or other*



*Robert Loraine*

7 Nov. Writes some Christmas verses for the gunroom of HMS *Repulse* (Larry Clarke). *'To all our people now on land. . . '*



*HMS Repulse was a new battle cruiser. The gunroom (full title, 'Gunroom Mess') was the junior officers' mess in large ships – cruisers and above. Larry Clarke was the Sub-Lieutenant of the Gunroom, with eight other sub-lieutenants and twenty-six midshipmen. He was the son of the Kiplings' Rottingdean neighbour, Commander H J L Clarke, who had taken Kipling to sea with him in 1901 (see Index). (See PINNEY, **Poems**, Vol. III, p. 2010 and p. 2293.)*

Nov. 12 We leave for London to spend a week.

Nov. 15 All three early to the Requiem Mass at the Oratory for the Irish Guards.

*“The Oratory” was the Brompton Oratory, a fashionable Roman Catholic church in West London.*

Nov. 20 We hear of Sir Starr Jameson’s illness and postpone our return home.

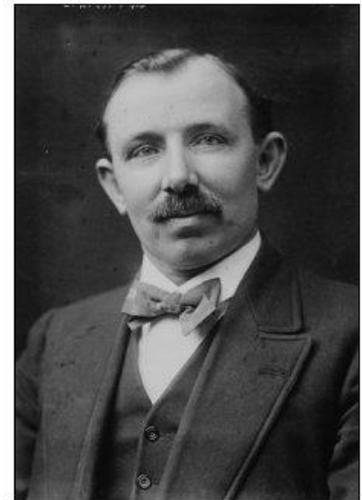
Nov. 21 Better news of Sir Starr. We return home.

*But Jameson was dying*

25 Nov. To Cliveden, large party, a Labour leader, Mr. Thomas, [most interesting](#).

*Their hosts at Cliveden were the Astors (see Index.) The ‘Labour Leader’ was Mr. J H Thomas (1874-1949), who had been an MP since 1910, while remaining General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen.*

*He later became a member of both the Labour administrations in 1924 and 1931, and briefly, of Stanley Baldwin’s National Government in 1935.*



*J H Thomas*

26 Nov. Dr. Jameson died – a dear old friend – just after Rud had called on him.

Nov. 26 Dr. Jameson died at 2.10. A dear old friend is lost to us.

*The historian Lord Blake writes of him: “In spite of all that has been written about him, this mercurial, unscrupulous, intrepid, reckless, restless, tireless medical man remains an enigma” (DNB)*

*He had inspired Kipling’s poem “If—”.*



*Dr Jameson*

29 Nov. Rud writes a message to Canadians on the importance of conscription.

*The issue of conscription was contentious in Canada at this time. Having volunteered in 1914-5 so generously, it was now difficult to find replacements for the heavy losses suffered in France. An Act to permit conscription had been passed in the Canadian parliament at the end of August 1917, though it was not implemented until 1918 and then not without riots, in Quebec City, at Easter. Much of the opposition to conscription came from the French-Canadians of Quebec Province, who felt marginalised.*

1 Dec. His message is in all the papers.

*Carrie means the Canadian papers – there was a small paragraph in The Times under the heading ‘Imperial and Foreign News Items’, quoting a sentence from Kipling’s message without giving the source, other than to attribute it to Kipling.*

**Dec. 5** Rud and I to London to Sir Starr Jameson’s memorial service.

*There was a report of the occasion, which took place in St, Margaret’s, Westminster, in The Times of 6 December. Under the heading “Others in the congregation were:-” Kipling’s name appears, followed by “(Rhodes trustee)”, but Carrie’s name was not included.*

**Dec. 6** The new parlourmaid feels too cold to stay but agrees to the two weeks I spend the afternoon over the secretary’s fire and garden problems.

*“The two weeks” presumably refers to her notice period.*

12 Dec. (Rud to London. Sergeant Farrell convinces him that John was shot through the head and carried to a shellhole at 6.30 on 27 Sep. on the left of Chalkpit Wood.)

*See entries for 4 Oct. and **Oct. 4** above.*

18 Dec. Rud refuses to write Jameson’s Life.

*He was fully occupied with the Irish Guards history.*

**Dec. 25** A few presents for Elsie but no others. One is thankful to have this day over. To me, since John left us, the most difficult of the year.

(Undated) All the autumn at Bateman's with many visits to London. Carrie has servant troubles. Rud writing his Irish Guards and taking daily walks with Trix. Seeing much of Beaverbrook.

*Sir Max Aitken had been ennobled as Lord Beaverbrook (the announcement appearing in The Times, 18 December 1916).*

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