

WILLIAM BINNING

DIARY 1915

William kept a small pocket diary for the early part of 1915. Below is a transcription of the diary. Any comments and paraphrasing are in italics.

At the front of the diary he filled in the following information:

Telephone number – 35 Cowdenbeath
Weight - 12 stone 7 pounds
Height - 5 foot 11 inches
Address – Lochview, Cowdenbeath N. B.

There are several addresses but the important one is – Margaret R MacDuff
c/o Mrs Alexander
3 Roseburn Drive
Edinburgh

She appears in his diaries as MRM and seems to be his girlfriend when he is at Edinburgh University before he knows Jane Kelso.

January Tuesday 5 1915

Report Stirling Major Munro before 4pm
GoldenLion Hotel
Train 1.25 Princes St Station
Arrive 2.20
5s First class Fare return Edinburgh
Train from Waverley 12.50pm
See father at Dunfermline
Dinner at 7.45pm

January Wednesday 6

9am Inspection by GOC
11am Lecture – Organisation
2pm Musketry instruction
3.30 Discipline

January Thursday 7

Am just beginning to feel want of my life

January Friday 8

On duty
6.30 – 10.30

Letter from M. (*Margaret MacDuff*) Much cheered up
Visit from Adjutant General
Write to M.

January Saturday 9

Home to Cowdenbeath

January Sunday 10

Glasgow people – very fine
Ashamed afterwards

January Monday 11

Very much ashamed (*can only speculate as to what this is a reference to*)

January Tuesday 12

Cheque to S Bloom 25s for watch

January Wednesday 13

Cheque to SB (*Father*) £5

January Thursday 14

Capt Johnstone
Lecture on war

January Saturday 16

Edinburgh
Met Mag. 2.30 – 9.45

January Thursday 21

9am lecture on Discipline
3pm Aiming instruction
5.30 Lecture on pay
Duties of officers

January Saturday 23

Home Cowdenbeath
Wait in Dunfermline
Rotten company

January Friday 29

March discipline
Musketry

Examination

February Tuesday 2

Course finishes

February Wednesday 3

6.38am Stirling to Edinburgh
report Bristol
10pm at Waverley
Change Sheffield 4
4.25 to Bristol

February Thursday 4
Report Bristol

Bristol 12.15pm
6.30am Nottingham
3 hours wait

February Friday 5

2 parades

February Saturday 6

Battalion inspection (*11th Scottish Rifles*)
Durdham Downs

February Sunday 7

Church parade
Presbyterian Church

February Monday 8

Orderly officer
On duty 6am to 6am Tuesday 9th

February Wednesday 10

Route march
Longashton via Clifton and Bourton
15 miles
men supplied with khaki

February Friday 12
Route March

February Sunday 14

Communion St James' Presby Church

February Wednesday 17

15 section
14 section insufficient bacon
orderly officer

February Thursday 18

Met Mrs Pearce and Mrs Burton at PH

February Monday 22

Scheme
Men soaking wet
Influenza

February Tuesday 23

Spent rotten day in bed

Much brightened by a letter from J (*this is believed to be the first reference in his diary to Jane Kelso to whom he will propose in a years time*)

February Wednesday 24

Another rotten day in bed

February Thursday 25

Another rotten day in bed

February Friday 26

And still another rotten day in bed

Much brightened by another letter from J

March Tuesday 2

Apply to have name in leave book

March Monday 8

Brigade inspection

March Tuesday 9

Picquets 6 am

Rations 7.15

Breakfast/Tea

Entries in 1915 diary stop