

Appendix I - The Documentary Evidence

Exhibit 24.

Copy of portion of letter.

. . . . an exemption for him now that d-a bugging Welsh sod's got into power - Gott strafe his blasted iz. Aint the whole caboodle lovely eh? We cant have peace yet, else there'd be no need for this Industrial conscription (alias National Service) so they must wait about six months or so while they get it fastened on our necks a bit firmer, and then (when) we've got it in the neck, treat - then I ~~suppose~~ suppose they'll talk peace.

We're breaking up to-day and we're being fed up to the nostrils with "peace on earth" cant - can only get peace by fighting etc - the English are showing "good will" by helping smaller nations and so on and so on from the boss the old B.F.

We dont break up till this afternoon wass luck and its pouring soaking tumbling down with rain hell's hard and blowing a tornado all last night and this morning too - I've got 23 boys away - I canna blame their mothers keeping them either - you never saw such a day - perfect sewer of a day sez oi.

Well canna send any more money over - Will's got a quid on his for any emergency and odd money too. He's having to buy tobacco and nowt else so he dosnt need any you see - With the other you sent I paid his grub and lodging bill and Alph and I made up a big parcel of groceries and sent over, so he'll get his share orlright.

You'll want all the money you've got soon so hang on to it we can manage orlrite and you'll praps get Alph to look after like we're doing well so keep your food and clothing and cash etc. ready for emergencies and we'll do the same. I get in a certain amount each week extra and store up in case we ever come to food tickets when "Siders" of course wont be catered for.

Waal that's all I think. Lets snow which of the letter dodges you think is best and what you can do about darling Alph - he's a sort of chap who'd live in a room for weeks with his books and no one

never ever know he was there if he were smuggled into a house and lived in his bed-room. Could he live in the shed on the field?

Well nearly time to go home now so long.

Keep fit and smiling - Win.

Notes: Mrs. Mason's explanation of her 'language'.

The Attorney-General: Is it the kind of language that you always use?

A. No. Only I think people of certain temperaments find a safety valve in being able to ----

Mr. Justice Low: A safety valve to write like this?

A. I find it so.

The Attorney-General: A safety valve for what?

A. I do not know.

Q. I want to know. Why do you want a safety valve for writing about Mr. Lloyd George?

A. Can I explain about the circumstances under which I wrote this letter?

Q. Certainly if you wish to. What became of the rest of it?

A. I do not know.

Q. Because this appears to be the third page of it.

A. Yes, it was a letter written from school before we were breaking up. I think there is a reference to it somewhere. I remember writing it quite distinctly. Naturally, looking after my brother was a bit of a strain. That same morning I had a letter telling me of the death of two of my friends; when I got to school we had nothing but peace on earth cant. Talking about peace on earth in the middle of the War was cant to me, and still seems to be.

Mr. Justice Low: I still do not see why you should use this language about it.

A. At the same time it was just about that date that Lloyd George was in power.

Q. Supposing it was?

A. After what I had gone through for my brother, and a good many of my friends had been killed or were imprisoned, and Mr. Lloyd George getting into power threatened now my husband. That was just the finishing touch. I suppose in a mood of bitterness I sat down and wrote that. I suppose that lasted me for a long time; I do not suppose I swore again for a long time after that.

The Attorney-General: We cannot test that; we can only test the letter we have before us.

A. Yes.

Q. What I want to find out from you at the moment - it is not a question of ordinary swearing, but words of filthy obscenity like this were well known to you and you used them from time to time.

A. Which word is filthy or obscene?

Q. I am not going to enter into a competition or discussion.

Mr. Justice Low: Let me understand it. Do you mean that you used these expressions without knowing their meaning?

A. I look upon it as a sort of surface vulgarity, but I do not think this is obscene.

Q. Will you answer my question? A dirty word of course I could understand, but do you say you used these expressions without realising their meaning?

A. They are almost meaningless to me.

Mr. Justice Low: That comes to the same thing.

The Attorney-General tried to make the remark 'I've got 23 boys away' mean that Mrs. Mason had assisted 23 C.O.s to escape military service - an obviously absurd attempt at twisting a perfect simple statement about children absent from school through bad weather.

Exhibit 37.

From Mrs. Wheeldon to Mrs. Mason. Jan 2nd

Exhibit, 37.

Tuesday night.

How are you all by now and did you get my parcel? I received yours yesterday, thanks muchly. I also got the forms and cash, thanks for that also. I am sending you all a taste of burd, and would like to know what you think of the proposed scheme we wrote about in the parcel. M.A. Cakey went up to see that man he mentioned and found it quite possible to do the deed but not for a week or two as there is something that has been given away and the men have to lie low for a little while just at present, anyway Mac is prepared to risk it whenever the opportunity comes. Oh, did you get the pie paper and will you send me that stuff, I want it for a fellow who will risk anything to accomplish something and it will not implicate anyone who belongs to us, in fact he does not know you exist. You will be hearing from the Planet to be examined in a day or two also he will want to see your Pa. You can arrange that to suit yourself. Oh the one on our Pa is off as the Dr. would not pass him so that you can manage 2s. per month and Alfs once a year, anyhow you will have to try. Yours is not due for six months again and I will see to that then. I am doing fairly well with it only there is so much walking but you have to earn everything you get at anything and it takes me out, and gets the time over quickly. I am out all Fri. and Sat. afternoons on evening and Tuesday morning and Wednesday to get new business. There is two more calendars. You can let those people have one, and two pairs of socks they will do for the lad this treacle is make weight and I have $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in case there is no sugar to be had later on. Its all the same price. I dont think the parcel rates have gone up this is a trial parcel think news is safer in packets than post dont you send us a line by return and say was the wine spilled and did you get the letter safely both in the last parcel. Oh, the postmaster has acknowledged my application about the loss of those books but nothing more so shall hunt him up soon again about them. I have not yet finished your blouse but will see what I

can do this week. Well I think this is all hope you will have a better New Year than this is everyone to come. Well so long best love to you all also Mrs. C. and her little ones.

(From Mrs. Wheelton to Mrs. A.G. Mason
172 Millbrook Road, Southampton.
Despatched 2nd January 1917).

Exhibit 39.

Wednesday.

Dear Mam,

Just got the bag and the burd thanks and am surprised you aint add our parcel by when you sent this one it was sent off Monday tea-time.

I sent a Planet envelope to you last week with a stencil cushion cover etc., did you get that? Then on Saturday I sent one to be left in luggage office have you got that?

Then on Monday night we sent the other one have you got that and last night I forwarded one to Wattie has he shewn you that? The burd is ecky; I gev Mrs. Canday a taste and she ^{says} fank you also the stwoburries but diant ort to spend yer money, so - as I keep saying I appreciate the things alrite but I'd sooner you'd buy yourself summat and keep orlrite or else save it all for emergencies - dont send any more socks he's more than he wants now and so Alph has col-lared 2 pairs. He's very keen about the affair and will take any chance I think like Alph, as soon as ever it can be arranged. They was over here last nite and we had a whist drive Alph won and I had booby. How much is them calingcers they're nice aint em? I've kept the Longfeller Mrs. C. has got the Tennyson and I'm going to give Dave t'other. Oh do yez want me to stencil this green satin

thing and send it to yer or what?

I dunna remember what book it was I told Wat to get but here's some more at any rate. The first one I tried to borrow for you but cudna but as its only a bob book praps she'll buy it for yer. You want to read first Bernard Shaw's "Mrs. Warren's Profession" in "plays unpleasant" which they censored, you know, that'll be in the library. Then this other is called after a line in that play and deals with the same thing - its called a Bed of Roses by W. Lloyd George (no relation thank God). Then I think you read "The Gadfly" by Voynich didn't you - now you want to read "An interrupted friendship" by the same man - this tells you of Arthur's life with those flaming Lascars more (or more) and accounts for a lot of things in "The Gadfly" its an awful book) so real and pathetic like his other one "Jack Raymond".

Well there's no more to say I think so I'll shurrup. Pib went mad over the burd skin and crunched the bones to bits nearly and rampazed all over the show to find more. He's growing ever so big now and has got ever such a silky coat.

Well good nite and bac luck befall Georgie. I hope to God t ings go alrite a la.

Heaps of love,

Win.

(Certified that this is an exact copy of an intercepted letter addressed to Mrs. Wheeldon, 12 Pear Tree Road, Derby posted at Southampton 11 p.m. Jan. 3. XVII.)

(sd) W. Melville Lee, Major.

F.W. de Valda Lt. R.F.A.

4 Jan. XVII.

Exhibit 57.

Photograph of the following letter:-

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We got Hett's letter this morning, and we were surprised to hear you have ^{not} got the stuff. We sent it to Edie's registered post tied and sealed and to you. Lets know all about it, as we are worrying now. We only got your things Monday dinner time and we sent it straight on Monday night so as you should not be waiting or out.

I sent some up on Tuesday and wrote again last night, and by your letter this morning it sounds as if you had received nowt. Have you also been to the station for last Saturday's parcel. I have got those two for you. Is she to pay in advance, or what. If so I shall send you the money and she can pay me the bob a week back as I know she cannot pay just now. If the doc. wont pass Pa can we do m him like you say we can to Alf's Pa because no doc on earth will pass him. I do not understand what you mean quite about Alf's Pa and the man Will. Well we've nearly done the bird in. It was lovely! Watt will have to be careful went he. Well off to catch the post. I do hope it is right about them things for the dawg.

Yeaps of love,

Win.

(Letter posted Southampton 7 p.m. 4th Jan 1917 and the postmark bears the number 9).

Exhibit 48.

Telegram.

Office of origin. Southampton J.

Handed in at 9.47 a.m.

Received here at 10.49 a.m.

To Mrs. Wheelton 12 Peartree Road, Derby.

Call at Edie's. If nothing wire.

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Exhibit 58.

Photograph of Postcard. Southampton 3 p.m. January 5th, 1917, addressed to Mrs. Wheelton.

"What the Lloyd George is wrong with the post. You ought to have had a letter every day. Hope you have got em by now lets know also a wire I sent you have you had that. Seen Watt or Eric lately alls well here so far."

The address side of card says:-

"I delivered de cash for you Al. Thanks are duly forthcoming."

(This apparently refers to Mrs. Wheelton sending funds to her son)

Exhibit 59.

Dear Man,

School tomorrow lovely aint it; Still I'm flaming glad the holidays are over. Saw Dave etc last night - he's going to buy a motor and let his young brother run a taxi for him and his boy at present drives for another bloke and is taking 30 to 40 bob a day regularly so Dave says he may as well be getting it as the other bloke and so he is going to invest on borrowed money.

The weather is putrid just lovely and spring sunny mornings - then dismal dreary raining afternoons and evenings. There aint ind news of any sort.

I stencilled that green e tin thing for a cushion cover and it looks just lovely - I've also got a small ainty pattern I did on that little d'yley thing you sent me a few weeks ago - it looks lovely - I thought of sending it to Mr. Ribbe and saying how nice the case was.

It was sales week's last weeks and I bought a lovely velvet dress - the same wine colour as my dress - costume and lovely black fur and

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buttons on it - see small bills. I also bought a blouse length for school as all my old ones are getting shabby. There's nowt else to say I think.

We haven't been over to the farm today as I didn't feel up to much and it came on to rain. I've been going to this set of lectures this holidays they were very interesting too.

Old Jeff is coming here in a few days time as Alph and Davis Paul want to do something re concentration etc like the bloke in prison in 'The Jacket' (Jack London) used to. You want to read this book - its awful and yet so interesting. Well I really will shirrup now, hope you received everything up to date. How's Wattie now - looking for a new job - tell him to come to Woolston here. If

Heaps of love,

Win.

Exhibit 52.

Dear W.M.W.

I have been, seen, and I have conquered not. Disappointed hopes has not committed suicide on the Merseyside however. She has got over that little affair and is as keen as ever for chance number 2.

You may be aware that I have raised the Liverpoolian dust I think it was said, with those number 10s of mine, in the endeavour to get the open sewage trench which might have led to freedom, but fate deemed otherwise. I am getting very Austral Planey of late Wack. and the boys have got into a mess over the carcass of a R.S. Peer named Kehrhan who had the luck to quit an internment camp. We got up north, and the boys succeeded in getting him off on to the big splash of saline solution. So far so good. But fate endowed K. with a hump, a very real hump, one he couldn't get rid of. Although the boys spent several hours in faking him up, that hump

was his undoing, he was spotted, brought back, and handed over. Result, the boys have to lie low, and our heave ho! on the saline solution is postponed. Therefore we must continue to avoid the "clutching hand" for a further period. The only thing I can write about that has ^{further} any bearing on the "report" part of this letter is the eternal "IF". If we, or rather I had gone to the "Pool" a fortnight earlier than was the case we would have had the opportunity of having a gargle to the memory of the "Old folks at home" in some saloon behind the mass of sculpture the Yanks used to advertise their particular brand of freedom. The boys say they would have had no trouble at all, for up to the "K" episode everything was plain sailing.

Everybody who are members of the McWilliam clan sends thee greeting, the chief McWilliam and the Madame McWilliam, the Lily M5W and the rest. Even I of the great clan Mac Dont Know Who salute thee O wandering one, and may the time come soon when we shall be able to have a gathering of the clans, greater even than that of the "Klu Klux". Yours as of yore.

A.

What do you think of the enclosed poem? Think I mentioned it in a former letter and forgot to send it. You will see from the cutting what Meacke refers to and what has put the kybosh on for a week or two. The program is of panto; read puns under characters. The whole thing was one mass of putrid puns.

Cigs are from McWilliams. I catch the 7.55 train and return on the 5.24 the bloody trains. Some days work eh? This two days being such awful weather he's let me out at 20 to 4 to catch the 5 to 4 so that's been alright, but it will be P.H. on the 5.24.

I've bort a new fur hat and a velvit one. Some bargains. Pib is a monster and is fighting Bill at the present moment who recovered from

her illness but is very little and thin.

Just map drasing so eill sidrup. Love from everybody to everybody. Paul is turned down absoBlood:lutely.

(This letter was identified by the ~~post-~~ prosecution's witness, Mr. Meacock, of Southampton Post Office, as being in the same hand writing as another letter (Ex. 35) which was written by Mrs. Wheelton.

In cross-examination it transpired that an interval of 25 days had elapsed between the witness's sight of Ex. 52 and Ex. 35.

This letter was written by Mac Donald after he had been to Liverpool to enquire about the emigration scheme. (It explains itself).

Exhibit 41.

Addressed to Herbert Norton Esq.,

100 Beverstone Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Postmark:- Derby, 1.30 p.m. 13 Jan. 19.

Dear Comrade,

When we discussed here emigration for the boys Mac Will and Alf should like to know what is being done in this direction. Not on the trail of Mac and Alf particularly; Alf who is a qualified chemist and could take a berth as dispenser to and from if it could be arranged and to pave the way for others. If this can be done or you can fix him any other way shall be glad to hear from you all the news of things in general.

Yours to a cincer.

(sa.) A.W.

Exhibit 53.

Dear Win,

The address is 637 London Road, Oslington. You put 673 London

Road, Alvaston. Luckily the postman met Jack and gave it to him on the car. Hayward was in his shop when Ada Hayward saw Spiby's shadow on the window. She pushed Art into the kitchen without coat or hat and locked the door when in walked Spiby. She kept him talking while Art escaped through the back door. We fitted him up in workman's overalls and dinner basket, and he's ooped it. Mac is terrified. Sticks in all day and only emerges at night. They can no longer employ him. Mam has written for that address. They ooped it the same hour they received the ? and so we didn't get it. They have eyes, ears, and mind for nothing else but their project. Let's hope it comes off. Am making further inquiries about the herring pond, but its so difficult as Mc's letters are all opened and a personal interview is the only thing. Will let you know as soon as I can. Keep quiet that's the thing. They haven't the ghost of a notion of anybody's whereabouts. Oh, the men at the work centres are prohibited from using the railways, and many did when they got their Christmas leave etc. E. Farn Rogers and so on. Well everyone who is known to have travelled has been sent back to gaol. 50 from the Warwick work centre last week. The committee controlling the centres met in a terrible stew as they find each man is costing the Gov. £80 a week loss. Bryce came down and told them that they were not earning their keep. C.H. Norman found out that the Comm. were in such straits that they voted that the scheme was a failure that they all be sent back to prison. It was defeated by one vote. Since then they were to have another meeting, which I suppose they had by now, but what they have decided to do I don't know. There are 1000 in Wormwood Scrubbs, 500 of whom are prepared to accept the scheme, yet places cannot be found for them so there they remain. Oh missus! Things is in a pretty mess isn't they. Anyway we shall see what the next move is. What about

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The big push in May, and what about the dark nights round about Jan 23rd. and the new Zepps. All furnaces at Bennerley and Stanton are on half blast by War Office orders, and the warning was given to damp down Thursday night, so oh Missie look out. The weather is bitter, and if many spend the night in the cellar there'll be a plague of pneumonia. Still it will serve them right what they get. Who can blame the Germans now for taking their revenge on rhinoceros skinned, perfidious canting Britain. Sutton is still workless, and living on his sisters who has 3 children, and an income of 30s a week, besides helping to pay off money borrowed by that brother of Suttons who drowned himself 3 years ago, so shes lively isnt she, and all the N.C.F. can allow is 8s. some weeks, 4s. others. The N.C.F. has failed and is dying a natural death. Frank Burton is still waiting to be seized by the clutching hand, and Paul has been completely turned down at the Appeals Tribunal. Williams has heard no more; doubtless the firm will appeal again for him. Moss, whose brother died in the asylum, is waiting to be killed, for they'll kill him and Leslie, Birch, Thomas, Crispin? are still like Mac at liberty. Have you heard (but I dont suppose you have) of the mutiny at Darlington. 5 officers have been killed. Cannot get to know more naturally. Wish it would spread. The Clyde engineers are out again and fighting soldiers at the gates who were put there to keep them in, with ~~solid~~ crowbars. Oh missus some stuff.

What about Lloyd George visiting the Holy See and God's Vicar. He might be seeing His Majesty himself soon. Pray without sneezing.

Edwin Baker called yesterday yarning American and doggerel French. Such as parlez vous pickaxe pommes de terre comme la Gee ja etc ad nauseam. We told him Will was at N.Y. in a good job. We thought t that good enough for him anyway. He's been in the Somme and wears his black and green patch on his arm to announce the fact.

Jack Vernon is in Notts Hospital shell shock and Lily wont go

and see him. Doesn't want to see him again alive or dead. Jack Redgate is Major and has been removed from Brom to London (garrison) Takes good care he stays at home. Auntie dear has been very ill. We hoped it was the last, but God is good to nuisances and made her well again. Pibby is a monster and is chasing Billie all over; we have to hit him; he lands on one end of the sideboard and vaults right to the other end.

MZEJ LXG I UUEE IQOEAP XOP
FUR KAJN AYO PWU AATIEFWG IAE
RYUGHX UXADN PMSFG SKPIYZJN
FA SMMP SCS XNCCOV FTRY PTRM SUYL
ATUFYZP IDHC E QREIJIHTNQ CI HA
UICL MUIJS NS AAUW AD JDC SRGA
ARXZ HDEF AYLH TGN.

Tell Alf as soon as the push becomes hot to make a bee line for here and then things can be considered. I've several suggestions, but haven't to put them into code now and of course I wont write them. Am writing again tomorrow so will say then. My idea is to keep quiet at present. I think if the men dont attract attention the military wont push. Will you let Watt have a list of Southampton engineering firms and say if you know whether they pay well or not. Must catch post. Keep smiling. Thine H.

(I certify this is a correct copy of a communication received at Southampton on the 15th Jan 17 under cover from Derby - postmarked 9.15 p.m. 14 Jan 17, and addressed to Mrs. A.G. Mason, Alphin House; 172 Willbrook Road, Southampton.

(sd) H.G.B. Hiscock, Overseer (P)

Post Office, Southampton, 17. 1. .7.)

Exhibit 53 (continued)

(De)
DEAR WIN

I have worked out the code and can remember the refrain about Taffy. Seginmur (beginning) "We will" and ending "tree"

This will show you that I understand it so slip along as soon as you like with some news.

Hett.

(See Exhibit 9)

Exhibit 60.

(Copy of a letter posted at Southampton

11.30 a.m. January 19th, 1917, addressed to

Mrs. Wheeldon, 12 Pear Tree Rd
Derby)

Thursday.

Got your letter alright thanks and have got nowt else to tell you cert that the Indig. mixture has been stood on the side all the week to come but Alf's been busy with Jess and hasn't sent it.

I got him to get a bottle of coff mixture for Pa will you give it 'im and my letter and all.

See what price the Sunderland touch some mutiny eh!

Any idea where that chap summat or other is? Is he well provided for - Alf says will send the stuff passengers train tomorrow (Friday) to be left luggage office tell called for I spex, else it'll come straight on to you I hope it dont get broke he's put it all in one big bottle 5 hobs worth - to make 3 (or more).

Keep on smiling. Alls well so far. Pip-pip.

Win.

Exhibit 60. continued.

Enclosure.

ZIVZ XIT GRZ L
GQ OVKTW AC SKUP VF JPEEP
SOLSEKAROCEDM MKTAA TR
ZPSH DIWYBS IEFZ WZJO
ZOPZ

three
(Then follow ~~two~~ sketches of two men and a woman)

Exhibit 60.

Enclosure.

Dear Man,

Got a xxx. Am keeping away from from large sheets of
water unfortunately. Still in good health. Best love,
Will.

Exhibit 61.

Dear Man,

Next being at all lately, howre you all getting on. Mrs. C.
pays me a bob a week for the kids - will the man call here for it or
will I send it to you - lets snow what to do about it. We'll be
writing to you tomorrow. Alph and all so only just time for a
line now. Got the Indig. Mixt. yet.

Love,

Win.

Exhibit 14..

HAFI PPE AZ WNRXKKA
PA MYNRE JBAKTYR UNVV
DAVA IJGAR SWRIGPCV GKDW
NENR TV NOERCAKKS KI
ISJSH TH TBS UDD
FRWWEZT CZUH XN
WTCAY XJHC YLSCSX NEQ

Exhibit 61 continued

PODSKY EXMPAZVNO UT
 JLV RDAZFAHP WPD
 DJK LRWITTO ZLA
 AYYJOC NG UTOCCXPJA
 YKOK KUXRX OSZXRUCI
 WKZC QNUCE IZE
 OHTLV EULNEQERSIXGG
 BJTCFA VAHRA MRO

Ave a go at this o ye who are so clever at ciphers. I have just scribbled out a passage and see if you can translate I will send the key in my next. Everything is well here nothing doing at all, except we have a stray cat, a tortoiseshell want it? I expect I shall have to go to join up by March 31st? See papers. I expect to appeal at the current tribunal.

Alf.

(Found in Mrs. Wheeldon's house by Sgt. Percival Hallett)

Note. "large sheet of water" - an old joke → Will's horoscope taken some years ago warned him to keep away from large sheets of water.

The use of the code - for communications from Will, is here shown.

ALBERT FOYER of 13, King Edward's Gardens, Acton, W. states:-

That I am a Code Expert working in His Majesty's Postal Censorship at Strand House, London.

I have decoded the Code passages in Exhibits 14, 27, 53 and they mean as follows:-

EXHIBIT 14

DEAR MAM,

AM CYCLING TO DERBY STARTING FROM HERE EARLY SATURDAY MORN TO
 (A)

Exhibit 61 continued.

BE IN LIVERPOOL ON MONDAY TO TRY FOR DISPENSING CRIB ON LIVER ONLY
CHANCE NOW ARRIVE IMEVENING IF ALL GOES WELL OUR LETTERS ARE OPENED
MY IMPORTANT POST OFFICE OFFICIAL.

2.

COMT WRITE ANYTHING DETERMINATION OAKLEY YOURS SVC
(a) (N) (n) openly yours Alf

Exhibit 65

Dear Sid and Alf,

Postmark 16 January.

Got your letter yesterday evening (sometime doing). Anyhow it arrived safely. Also we had a man about those books so perhaps we shall either have them or the money now. I complained about that cheeky sod who called on you and this old man said he would see about it. We knew who he was. Well we can make nothing out of your cypher, nothing whatsoever. We wasted all night trying every refrain and date we could think of let us have the key. Haywood and Boss is in the spare room at U.B. Sutcliffe out of work time up to day. Sutton expecting arrest anytime. We out of work being low only night calls. Sent a letter to W. but found he was at conference Chester so he has not had it, was brought back to me. So another is going tomorrow Sat. He will get it on Tuesday by Passenger Driver (some route). The conference is demanding that they shall be sent back to Scotland. What then, I wonder. Time is getting on is all the consolation we can get at present. When it'll end I wonder. Have you got the book Alf wanted with letter in and Wilson's speech to the Senate. Keep it for reference or send it back for us to keep its worth it. Oh that humming bird has arrived. Well directed its course and as there is another hanging up for Sat. will cook both and send you a taste on Monday ready

for the Birfday on Wed twas Monday last year Zepps visit. Hope they come again with better luck. You will see in my letter in the book what to do with Mrs. C. money will that suit you or shall I send Davis mothers cash on and then you can keep that for every month with Pa Masons. Has the man been to see you. I see Alf has been to the Doctor as his Policy has come. The others will be here perhaps next week. I am getting on an average with what they allow me about 10s to 12s. a week. The wage reduces 4d per week and will soon be done. You see I am doing alright so far and will be a start for someone if all else fails. We have now only the waiting game to play. Have heard nothing of Dot somethings since they went to London looking for opportunities. Wish they would come along and soon send that key and we will try again. With all my love to you all.

M.

(I certify this to be an exact copy of a communication received at Southampton on the 27th January 17, under cover addressed to Alfred G. Mason Esq., 172 Millbrook Road, Southampton, and dated stamped Derby 10.15 a.m. 26 Jan 17.

(sd) W.C.B. Miscock (Postal)

Southampton.

2nd February 1917.)

Exhibit 27. (Copy of letter addressed to Mrs, Wheeldon, 12 Peartree Road Derby, registered at Southampton - No. 43-49. Postmark - Southampton, dated 29th January, 1917.)

Dear M.

I am getting on orlrite still. Its bitterly cold here, but think of the pore fellers in the trenches with six feet of earth on them.

That cypher you can't read is easy. You are trying to do it the wrong way; that's all that's wrong. You should write the key words underneath as usual; then point the arrow towards the top letter, find the bottom letter on the bottom strip, and the letter above it in the top strip is the one you want. It's just the opposite of the way you do when you write it. It will perhaps be better to alter the key word now. There are too many in the secret now and it may leak out, a secret known to more than two is not much good anytime, and more so now. Anyhow it will do the nosy parkers who read private letters a bit of good to puzzle their putrid pulp over a new one. The new one had better be

RK MLH DGIL U LPZV PCN
LEND IRAZUTP HID
HDPAP PSK XAVNM

I expect you will have a visitor by the time you get this and he will tell you the news. I hope the spot something man gets a chance. That will be joy, but keep mum, and trust absolutely nobody with even the faintest breath of anything like that. I'm not thinking of anyone in particular, but you know what slimy cowards the pious christian English are if their dirty skins are in danger. The only ones to trust are ourselves. I don't want you to involve yourself in any useless risk of anything. I should not tell even Mac or Paul or Robbs or any of them about anything which they don't already know. Take a tip from the Government in that line, and inform people about what they've found for themselves.

However, after all this barge, summat about myself. I've got a new hat a velour bow wow. It looks a treat. Don't you work too hard on that insurance stunt, or you'll crock up. I hope Nell's cold is better. I've escaped such things myself. Remember me to Wattie and remind all people with anything to spare of the date of

Exhibit 27 continued.

All contributions devoted to a good coz. Thats all there is to write about so I will shut up. Best love to you and everybody els from me.

P.S. I hear Ll. G. is likely to get kicked out by Mrs. Davenport West's relations. 'When thieves fall out ----'

Exhibit 3.

Envelope containing particulars of Steamers to America.

Exhibit 26.

Draft Telegram.

Mason 172 Millbrook Road Southampton
Cancel University Wednesday's lecture quite well All news
Thursday Alf.
Wheeldon 12 Peartree Road Derby.

Exhibit 40.

(Directions)

The powder in tube A is sufficient for two or even three doses. To be given by mouth or in solution. The powder in tube C to be injected either in solution or by a dart (which will penetrate into the body and stop for a while) rusted in solution and covered C. powder from the air gun will do (walking stick gun). A rusty needle if driven well in covered with powder rusted on etc. may do, but do not advise unless in urgent dilemma. Solution B, either by mouth or injection. Solution D. brown injection only. All are certain. A. in powder form. All four will probably leave a trace but if the bloke who own it does suspect it will be a job to prove it. As long as you have a chance to get at the cog I pity it.

Dead in 20 sec.

Exhibit 40 continued.

Powder A. on meat or bread is O.K. If you care for microbe can supply. Needle .36 hours in strong solution. Allow to dry in air dip again for two sec. and allowed again to dry. Cover with C. powder.

Note. In the press reports the important word 'it' was changed to 'him'.

Exhibit 42.

Phial A. This contained $7\frac{1}{2}$ grains of a white crystalline substance.

Phial B. This contained $1\frac{1}{2}$ fluid drachms of a colourless liquid.

Phial C. This contained 5 fragments of a dark brown earthy looking substance.

Phial D. This contained 1 fluid drachm of a turbid brown liquid.

Exhibit 43.

A. I find the crystalline substance in this phial to be Hydrochlorate of strychnine. The phial when submitted to me contained $7\frac{1}{2}$ grains of Strychnine hydrochlorate. Approximately half a grain of strychnine hydrochlorate is a fatal dose.

B. The liquid in this phial was a solution of Hydrochlorate of strychnine.

The strychnine hydrochlorate was present in the amount of 8 grains per fluid ounce.

In the phial submitted to me there were present $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains of strychnine hydrochlorate.

Exhibit 44.

C. The dark brown fragments in this phial were found to be soluble in water to the extent of nearly 80 per cent of the substance.

The fragments were similar in appearance to the poison Curare ("Woorari").

On grinding up with water a brown turbid liquid was produced.

D. The brown turbid liquid in this ohial was similar in appearance to the liquid produced on treating the contents of C. with water.

Exhibit 45.

CURARE.

The poison used by the natives for tipping their arrows, It is supposed to be made by preparing a decoction of the bark straining and evaporating to a syrupy consistence, then adding sufficient powdered bark so that when cool it solidifies into a resinous mass. Insoluble in ether, partly in H.2 O.

Constituents.

Curarine, an alkaloid soluble in C. H. Cl 31, and is identical chemically with strychnine, but differs that it is very poisonous subcutaneously and practically harmless by mouth. Used by Vivisectionalists.

Appendix 2. Mrs. Wheelton's Recollection of
Contents of letter asking for poison.

Dear Win & Alf,

(Here followed some general remarks about an unhappy Christmas.) The letter then continued, "We have a poor devil here stranded (something like our Will). He says he can get across the herring pond quite easily. He wants to get his friends over, who are fastened up like Mrs. Asquith's pals. To get them out could Alf send some dog poison?" Here Mrs. Wheelton's recollection being imperfect, Mrs. Mason gave the following as her recollection of the letter. The letter started with a general description about an unhappy Christmas and went on, "There is a poor stranded devil come here (like Will a C.O.) and a lover of Georgie like the rest of us. I have arranged with him to get the boys across the herring pond, that is if Alf wants to go. He has got several out but there is a difficulty arising about a dog (Pops) His friends are in concentration camps. I have undertaken to get some poison for him. Will you ask Alf for some? Let us have it at once as of course every day matters now and let us know what Alf thinks about it. If there is anyone else there you would like to get out I could probably arrange with this man to get them out too. He is in league with a shipping agent. Will write later as Mac. is going to see for arrow personally."

Appendix B.

Questions in Parliament re Gordon and the spy system.

Monday, June 8th.

Mr. King asked the Home Secretary whether reports of the activities of Alec Gordon have been received at the Home Office; and whether Alec Gordon has been or is now employed by the Home Office?

Sir G. Cave: The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

June 11th.

Mr. Anderson asked the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the charges made in respect of the activities in the munition areas of a man calling himself Alexander Gordon, whose evidence as a Government agent was used in a public trial; whether he is aware of the allegations that this man has urged strikes among munition workers, and has suggested the stealing of fuses, and the setting up of a secret printing press; whether the man Gordon is still in this country or whether he has recently been sent to America; and whether he will cause public investigation to be made into the activities of this man, and will cause him to be produced at such investigation?

The Attorney-General (Sir Frederick Smith): My attention has been drawn to the allegations contained in the question, and previously stated as matters of fact by the Hon. Gentleman himself in the House. There is no foundation whatever for the suggestion made. The man known as Alexander Gordon has not been employed by the Government since January of the present year. His present whereabouts are unknown and no investigation is necessary or is proposed.

Mr. Anderson: Is the Right Hon. Gentleman aware that these grave charges are vouched for by workmen in Manchester, Leicester, Derby,

Appendix 5. continued.

Coventry, Sheffield, and Liverpool; and is he also aware that they have been discussed at a labour conference in Birmingham, and that a number of men are prepared to come forward and give evidence in regard to the men who are advocating strikes, violence, sabotage.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member must give notice of the question. It raises a series of allegations.

Mr. Anderson: May I ask if I can have an opportunity in the House of bringing forward evidence in my possession dealing with this matter?

Sir F. Smith: The Hon. Member has asked whether I am aware of a great number of things of which it is quite evident I could not be aware. Either my Hon. Friend or some of his Hon. Friends have purported to supply to one of my Hon. Colleagues a statement. That statement may have been complete or incomplete. If it is incomplete and requires to be supplemented, I should be glad to consider any supplement put before me. I carefully considered the evidence put before my Right Hon. Friend a fortnight or three weeks ago, and I may tell my Hon. Friend that I was wholly unimpressed by it, but if he has any further evidence he will find me prepared to consider it.

Mr. Anderson: To what evidence does the Right Hon. and Learned Gentleman refer? Does he refer to my speech in this House?

Sir F. Smith: No, that is not evidence. I refer to a statement containing allegations purporting to be made by four or five— I forget the exact number— working men with reference to this man Gordon. I investigated the statements, dates, and places, I investigated the records of the men who were purported to have made those statements and on that evidence I was unconvinced; but if the Hon. Member has fresh evidence he will find me perfectly ready to consider it with candour and openness.