

Transcript of volunteer diary – 1989 Harvard Hospital Common Cold Unit, Salisbury

Tuesday 6/6/89

Arrived 1030
Medical by Dr Barrow
Nosewash
Bloodsample Dr Higgins
Lunch 1300 All together Steak and kidney
Pre trial talk
Sister Dalton Anything wanted
1730 Supper salad
2000 temps 37.0 °C

Wednesday 7/6/89

0400 woke up
0600 shower urine sample
0800 b'fast
0800 temp 37 °C
Raining dull day cool
Nosewash Barrow & Dalton Temp & hanky check
Nosespray – Higgins 1030 elevensies piece of cake
David & Trev – snooker
Computers 1330
1230 lunch
1730 supper Egg and onion flan & toms
Sister Dalton rounds
2000 Temp 37.2 °C
2130 Bed

Thursday 8/6/89

0600 rise
Wash
0730 b'fast cornflakes
0805 Temp 36.8 °C no hankies
Read deadlock nearly over
This is the day – virus day or not
Brightday bit of fog this am
Looks like a nice sunny day
We'll see!
1030 elevensies
1100 Sue performance test
Bright but overcast
Cool
Rain 1230!! Lunch ?
1235 Higgins with virus or not
Painless! Back in $\frac{3}{4}$ for another go
1330 another virus or not go
He said it should go from
Saturday-Sunday-Monday but
We'll see
1500-1620 game of monopoly 1st Trevor 2nd me
3rd David. David had a tendency to cheat

Clear but cool out
False reading dominoes
1700 Supper Rice & curried mince
Not very hot
Quite mild
1800 Sister Dunning rounds
2000 Temp 37.2 °C
2149 Bed
Quite a pleasant day getting more friendly with flatmates.
Kate phoned 2000 she's having her last one tonite I finished
Mine of Tuesday no more about
That forget it!

Friday 9/6/89

0600 got up
0605 shower
0630 b'fast cornflakes & coffee
0640 went out for fresh air saw a deer on the grounds alas disappeared before photographic evidence could be obtained. Maybe tomorrow. took a few shots (with halina micro 110) of view of surrounding countryside – see how they come out
0800 temp 36.8 °C 1 hankie
0815 papers & Davids cooked b'fast arrived
0915 Sister Dunning & Dr Burrow rounds
0930 Auntie Sue more forms to fill in one about headaches % time spent with flatmates
1000 Trevor & David off to play pool
1015 Cool & bright outside at moment bit of breeze hope it gets warmer so we can sit outside or go for a walk maybe.
David is a bit childish enjoys breaking wind and calling attention to it. Trevor humours him. Trevor drives a bus, David is training to be a train driver. They have a mutual friend Tim who also is a bus driver. They come from Halifax & Leeds. Cant remember who comes from which place.
Helicopters fly over everyday. Wherefrom? Where to? Is what I'd like to know. As I loo out of my bedroom window they fly towards me & right to left & left to right – make – Seaking gazelle, Scout, small private also fixedwing – Chipmonk
1035 Elevensies scones not bad
1230 lunch fish in breadcrumbs, beans & fried potatoes followed by apple pie and custard very good
Sunny out 1239 windy keep temp from rising.
1510 its alright when the sun comes out but there are a lot of clouds for it to hide behind. Good day for a walk but David's in his room with Colin Davies's Walkman so we wont see him for a while. Coffee and see whats on TV
1515 How about this for a flatmate he asks for a tin of beans everyday and gets them but doesn't eat them. He's taking them home after the trial. He also can't get his 3/7/89 bloodsample taken by his doctor because he's told his dr he's got a bad back and is therefore

One & ½ rounds and 2 rashers bacon followed by peach. Written one hell of a lot today already. Can't have been much going on today. No cold yet time will tell.

1805 Sister Dunning

200 temp 37.1 °C

Played scrabble from 2015 to 2115 I won when Trevor then David. I saw David blow his nose with his own hanky and he said it was his hay fever. He said he didn't reckon they would allow him to come if he had told them he gets it. Is he endangering the trial? He won't tell them this is his free hol on sick leave. How about letting Kate now and see what she thinks.

Very light misty rain 1135

1230 lunch stewing steak in gravy with boiled potatoes and carrots followed by banana custard. Still wettish day a bit dreary outside might go for another circuit of camp this abo. I did . Walked round clockwise again and rang Kates doorbell. Pat answered but Kate was in. Had a natter – she said she'd had a calamitous morning in that Pat was out somewhere and Dennis 'The Deliveryman' has just left when she went to get a glass of water and the top of the tap blew off so she had to wait until Pat got back before doing anything. Pat rang the office for Dennis who they got in the end. Got back to see Sister Dalton just leaving after giving Trevor his 1400 spray. Colin from 4a brought a cold in with him so is not on the trial but is staying on till the end anyway. It seems where the men only get a nose spray if they contract a cold, the women get one even if they don't. Girls get them every 4 hours about and boys get them every 3 hours approx.. So Sister Dalton will come round at 1100,1400,1700,2000,2230.

1700 Came and Sister Dalton arrived

1730 Saw two motorised handgliders sail over the camp

1735 Supper salad and sardines with tomato sauce. Very nice too.

2000 temp 37.0 °C Sister Dalton round with Trevor's spray

2205 Bed

Sunday

0600 got up 11/6/89

0605 Shower

0635 B'fast cornflakes

Foggy out you can see as far as the perimeter fence from 3a that's all

0645 Walk round compound anticlockwise today

0700 coffee cup of

0800 temp 36.7 °C 1 hanky

With any luck the sun will burn the fog up and we'll be left with a beautifully hot day with any luck.

0900 Finished the Honey Ant very good book I'll pass on to Kate with the Inspector Felse one "A nice derangement of epitaphs"

0915 Dr Burrows and Sister Dalton asking after colds, only Trevor

1005 Nosewash Weather good sunny getting warmer. How about a walk this abo.

1105 Sister with spray for Trevor. Had a dry throat this am.

1210 Lunch Lamb gravy potatoes sprouts followed by blackcurrant crumble and evaporated milk

1400 Sister Dalton with spray

1405 Trevor and I went for walk up to Salisbury Racecourse got back about 1615 lovely and warm but one hell of a lot of lies about nevermind as I said it was a nice walk.

1700 Sister Dalton with Trevs nosepray

Caught David using a cloth hanky for his hayfever he's got red eyes and nose but he managed to wriggle out of it saying he had a bit of grit in his eyes and the sun had made his nose red we shall see if Sister Dalton or any of the staff find out about him!!!

Another thing Silster Dalton has offered David her Optrex Eye Bath solution for his eyes she has been taken in by him this is getting exciting isn't it!!!!

1730 Supper ham and salad very nice followed by a banana, Sister Dalton said she wants at least 5 hankies and 2 symptoms of cold for them to take it seriously. I am up to two hankies and 1 symptom ~~so~~ but have only got until Monday to get the full blown 'cold' so with any luck it won't happen which is fortunate for me but unfortunate for the trial as up till now there are only two cold victims out of thirty!!!

2000 Sister for Trev's nosespray

2020 Forgot our temperatures nevermind this time but never again ok!! 36.9 °C

2135 Bed. The word for David and his behaviour is "crude"

Monday 12/6/89

0600 Rise clearish a bit of cloud

0630 walk and deliver books to Kate at 6B. Saw large black bird picking at a dead rabbit – between huts 2 & 3 – that had probably been killed by an owl in the night.

0705 B'fast – cornflakes

0800 temp 36.7 °C Sister Dalton with Trevors nose spray. Looks like another nice day.

0945 Doctor Burrows & Sister Dunning rounds I think as far as mornings go David is in the clear for his hayfever and therefore unless Sister Dunning catches him out, like Sister Dalton did, and tells the good doctor he hayfever will go unnoticed.

1000 Nosewash. Doc Burrows said even if myself and David now got a cold we wouldn't be allowed to use the nose sprays so lets hope I stay in good health. Another thing I've been craving for a smoke. Today more than ever. I don't know why because I would have thought it would have got easier as I went on. At this rate I shall start smoking again as soon as I come out on Thursday which is a pity.

1100 Sister Dunning with Trevors nosespray. David has ordered a bottle of cider because it is Colin's birthday today and the kitchen is baking him a cake. Which is nice for him. Elevensies was a rock cake which was nice. Phones up Kate about the books and she suggested a game of open air scrabble this abo so we will see. I couldn't get into "Black is the colour of my true love's heart" by Ellis Peters so I will read "Uncle Target" by Gavin Lyall which is a Harry Maxim one so it should be alright.

1230 Lunch sheperds pie with broad beans and boiled potatoes followed by rice pudding. Suns hot. Outside in shorts

1330 Computer testing no very good I reckon then back outside Kate delivered some old Telegraphs with empty big crosswords so I will wander over and thank her. Happen she's there because she and Pat might have been on their way somewhere because I was playing with the computer when the papers were left. We'll see. She was there and just about to start sunbathing which I didn't but sat out reading in shorts and shirt for a couple of hours came in at 1610 put some aftersun milk on because I burnt a bit. Hopefully it will be alright time will tell as I keep saying. I wonder if David burns because he's been out quite a long time as well but with his shirt off we'll see. He did but he got some cream off Trevor

1710 supper cheese egg onion and tomato flan very good followed by an orange. If I can keep paying for it without going under I can't see why I should stop I don't drink ok it is probably cutting me to bits inside and I'm dying but arnn't we all anyway this time I've found that if theres a big enough reason or even if "I" want to give up

may be I will whereas its not me but the family who want me to stop! Ok that only because they love me (or am I being too conceited) and don't want to lose me. Frankly at this moment in time I don't give a dam if I do die!! There, I've said it, I don't know what I am here for or living for what to do. Stop thinking bad thoughts snap out of it happy days are hear again.

2000 Temp 26.9 °C Sister Dunning with Trevors nose spray

2130 bed not long now

Tuesday 12/06/89

0600 Get up

0605 shower

0630 walk around camp

0700 B'Fast cornflakes

0800 Temp 36.6 °C Sister Dunning with the nose spray for Trevor who says he;s getting better gradually which is nice for him.

0930 Doctor Burrows & Sister Dunning rounds asked point blank if he suffered from hayfever the reply was negative. I was wearing shorts so the doc commented on the scar asked if it had cut the tendon. I said no only into the fatty tissue which was lucky Sister suggested.

1000 Nosewashed I put on some long trousers because of my burnt legs I concurred. Now we wait for Aunty Sue to come with the performance tests and then maybe play scrabble with Kate & Pat in 6B.

1015 Aunty Sue performance tests

1035 Elevensies fruitcake great

1100 Sister Dunning with Trev's nose spray.

Scrabble late Kate's playing with her typewriter.

1130 Scrabble on. I went over to grass outside 6B and we started play. We stopped at 1230 for lunch. Stewing steak in gravy with boiled potatoes and ratatouille followed by a piece of chocolate cake but I'll have mine later after scrabble which is where I'm going now to finish the game. Couldn't go range Kate first Pat was having a siesta so she'll (Kate) phone when they are ready to receive me. Off I went with empty cup so that I could have a cup of tea. Very good.

During game lost both games 144 and 133 finnished about 1700 came back for supper of tinned spaghetti to find that David wanted my gateaux so I gave It to him (wasn't that nice of me!) Rest of time spent reading and watching telly till bedtime.

2000 temp 37.2 °C

2130 Bed

Wednesday 14/06/89

0530 Get up

0545 Went for walk over stile down path across Roman Road up to Dog Dean Farm. Back along road right onto Roman Road left across field up to corner of compound by Flat 6b through barbed wire fence then anticlockwise round camp.

0700 B'fast Cornflakes and coffee. I had a cigarette last night off Trevor.

0800 Sister Dunning with Trevor's nosespray said goodbye and farewell because she is leaving today and we won't see her here again as the centre is closing down after trial

1000 Temp 36.5 °C I will see if Trevor will sell me some cigarettes as he has so many (300)

0915 Doctor Burrows and Sister Dalton the usual have you got a cold how's it going and a self assessment form did you get a cold how bad was it etc etc

1000 nose wash

1030 Eleversies madeira cake oky doky

1050 Off to play scrabble with Kate only as it seems Pat has got a cold from yesterday and doesn't feel up to it. Come back at 1215 for lunch Chicken and veg pie with carrots and spuds followed by apple crumble and custard which, incidentally, I couldn't manage – nevermind. Bake to Kate at 1355 finished 1600 Kate won both games as usual read a bit starting packing.

1700 Sister Dalton arrive for Trevor and also to go over the details of leaving tomorrow

1715 Dinner arrived salad and apples Kate's coming over sometime this evening to deliver her camera so that when I go on my early am walk I can get some pictures of the poppies and the sunrise over the camp & bunny wunnys because I not sure my camera is any good yet as out the 1st lot of 36 exposures I only got 6 back. Watched telly read a bit played dominoes with David and Trevor. 2000 Sister Dalton with nosespray and some cough medicine for Trevor who else!

2130 Bed early for early rise

0603 up bit late

0607 Shower

0628 Walk anticlockwise this time took some snaps with Kate's camera although I probably left the lens cover on for half of them which is silly seeing as there where only 12 or 13 left saw a black bird with a damaged leg, it couldn't fly got back 0720 cup of coffee final packing.

Sheets and blankets off bed and folded.

0800 Temp 36.9 °C 2 hankies followed by B'Fast cornflakes and wait for doctor and Sister.

Cleaned up room.

0830 Papers arrived.

Worst part waiting waiting waiting for the doctor so that afterwards you can end the isolation get the car and pack it up then you'll be free till lunch at 1255

0930 Finally arrived its all over and what can I do (ELO)

Over to medical room to drop off games and wellies sign visitors book get money from office £11.80 travel £17.50 pocket money.