

DOP/01/009

Hawtin Mundy
Born February 1894

- 002 Joe Scraggs had DCM – next to VC for private or NCO.
- 010 “You’re nothing more than a well – oiled machine and that’s about the limit”.
- 019 Got first wounds a Plugstreet, Woods. Ypres front and Hill 60 not far away. Battle of Hill 60 going on at the time – led by Canadian Army – Colonel Birchall was C.O. Capt. Birchall brother – led it blowing a bugle horn “the same as if he was out hunting”. He was killed. Birchall family very wealthy. Hoe Scraggs after war invited to go to family for what he did in helping Capt. Birchall, sent him a cheque for £100.
- 039 Germans jumpy while battle going on. Gave them “a pasting” as well – shellfire. Knocked big hole in barbed wire in front of trenches. During the day Ruky Brown came along, HM stood talking to a “couple of our chaps” and PB said “Oh, I want you to get two people HM was talking to volunteered. When you went into “relive” loaded up like a pack mule to take supplies into live coils of barbed wire, sandbags, picks, shovels, rifle ammunition, boxes of hand grenades etc.
- 054 Nightfall – lovely and quiet. Pinky Brown came along – got coil of barbed wire, slid over the top, crawled gently down to wire (Had to be quiet as only 100 yards from Germans). Slowly wound barbed wire round posts. Almost finished job when suddenly “bang, down I went”. He couldn’t shout as the Germans would have opened with machine gun fire. Never made a sound. Lay quiet for a time. Others dragged him back to trench. Load of chaps waiting, pulled him in, stretcher bearers came along, cut putties off, ripped trousers up – wounded in leg. Bandaged it up. Stretcher bearers took him through wood to ambulance. Ambulance took him to “Beauville”. Taken into large warehouse – stretchers everywhere – wounded from Hill 60 coming there too.
- 087 Doctor came along – examined wound, dressed it, and stuck label on tunic – in his case “severe leg wounds”. Chaps came up and said “Hello Hawt”. He said “Oh Blimey” – a Bradwell chap in Stratford ambulance. In pre-war days Stony Stratford had an ambulance team – perhaps attached to Territorials – Man’s name was Green. Had a long old chat. Then moved to rail head were “fitted up nice” – with beds all along. Chap opposite him was “guggling and guggling”. HM asked orderly what was wrong – shot through the throat. Before too long he went quiet – he passed out. Went to Boulogne into large hospital – the Rawalpindi”.
- Chap opposite him – leg cut off just above knee so that you could see all the “meat” – could see the veins and meat “just like cutting through a leg of lamb or something”£ - thought how funny that was.
- 123 Not there long – then loaded into hospital ship – called “St. Patrick” (No-RK it was “HS Brighton”) Went to Dover. At Dover everything organised to perfection. Carried off in stretcher, put into ambulance train, there were nurses, ambulance men looked after

you beautiful. Went to Chatham. HM taken to a large hall – held 40-50 beds. In next bed to him was Scotsman – came from island in North of Scotland. He was illiterate, HM wrote letter to parents. On bed on other side “was a right royal turn” – chap in Hants. Regt. From Plymouth – got very pally

- 160 While their mother and father and two brothers came to see him there.
- 163 One day the other chaps mother came from Plymouth to see him there. At far end of room. Mother came in at other end of room, spotted him and came running down the room “bawling and calling” running up to him. Had a big hat of feathers and flowers on “a proper posh hat”. HM always called him “Mush”. He looked at Mother, she was bawling, he said “Where’d you get that bloody hat?”
- 177 After a few days moved to hospital. Casualties coming in very fast at that time. About a dozen of them were moved to a house at Stroud – near Rochester a large private house belonging to a doctor. A doctor, a sister and two V.A.D. nurses were there. Well looked after. Had operation there. Dum-dum bullets when they hit you they “scatter” – the casing come off – ordinary bullet would go straight through you. When cut let open found pieces of a bullet – either a dum-dum bullet or ordinary bullet that had hit wire and split up. Was given pieces of it – HM still has some bits. Mother had brooch made out of one piece. Doctor couldn’t get it all out – one piece stuck in shinbone – still there today.
- 221 Wound didn’t heal – leg swelled up and went black. Sister and Doctor decided to amputate next day. During the night it all burst and broke open – never had trouble with it since. Put to sleep by laying on table and pad of half ether and half chloroform placed on face. Awful feeling and like being suffocated before you went off. When you came round after the operation you were as sick as a dog and felt “awful bad” – could taste it for days afterwards.
- 245 Began to get better. 4 in downstairs front room. As girls went to work in factories near by they’d shout at them, have a chat and leave some cigarettes for them. Had crutches and learned to use them. Plymouth chap has bad wound in foot and half of shoe had been blown away. He hung on to that shoe. People would come round with car to take them out for the day. they were the real thys ones as there were few cars. Remembers once the local fire brigade took them all out to local Music Hall. Put in front row. On stage was a well-known comedienne, Marie Lloyd. After performance she collected “us little bunch”, took them behind stage and gave them a drink.
- 290 After time went before medical board to see if fit to leave hospital. Went with friend to London he carried old pair of boots over his shoulder, said he would never get rid of them. Had a few drinks in bar in London, others asked what he was doing with the boots over his shoulder. He told tale and we didn’t want for drinks all night.
- 305 From there HM went home for hospital leave. At that time there was no conscription. Anybody young in civilian clothes, girls had habit of giving white feather. The Byng Boys was the play.

- 345 Anyone home early wounded in war was a “two-a-penny hero” – the girls made a fuss and apologised. Mother was very angry – took a long time to get over that.
- 354 Great to be back home from the trenches. Not quite what you might expect. Wolverton and Bradwell like a ghost town. – all your mates had “joined up” – hardly anyone about. Went for drink in Club or pub, seemed only old went (i.e. over 40) were there. Appeared to him to be old men. Just a few young ones who hadn’t or wouldn’t join. But you didn’t want their company.
- 375 Bright spot was Sid Carroll. Had had a number of operations, had been discharged and had job in offices at Railway Works. “That were beautiful for him and I to get together again”. Used to go at night after work, having a drink here and there.
- 388 When leave finished reported back to HQ at Aylesbury. From there sent to camp at High Wycombe. There were sponsored regiments. At Park at HW camp sponsored by rich of Bucks, nicknamed “the Jewish Battalion” -0 sponsored by Lord Roseberry, Lord Rothschild and Leon family – all Jewish millionaires. It was to reinforce the 1st Bucks Territorial Battalion in France. 200-300 there. One tent called “the Expeditionary Force tent” for those who had come home wounded and reported back. About a dozen of them. Did not training (others did) Magnificent food. Had everything they wanted
- 452 Troops recruited from London. Mostly Jewish or sporting people were prominent national boxers – Jim Sullivan was one – middleweight champion of England. The whole of his boxing school had joined up together.

Side Two

- 000 Set up a boxing ring in the camp. On Sundays there were public band performances, competitions and boxing matches etc.