

33. Field Ambulance 11. Division

Private. S.E. Williams 84011.

(Reinforce 11.Division)

Home Address =

45, Aylesbury St,

Wolverton,

Buckinghamshire.

England.

Left Blackpool.

(The sinking of the Liner H.M.HS.Brittanic)

H.M.H.S Brittanic was torpedoed 21-11-16. At

8-12-am. and had sank out of sight 9am. There was two

boats lowered after I got off.After I got off my boat was

lowered to the water, we all clung to the oars. 4 oars and

four men to each oar. We pulled for our lives to clear the

suction. When we was awaiting orders to get off, looking

over the side. We saw several boats being took under the

propeler and men being cut to pieces at once. We saw a

female jump from a boat that was being cut up, limbs

flying in all directions. But the female was saved

suffering from shock and bruises, (The same lady was on the Titanic).While pulling away something hit me on my left eye, but did not take much notice at the time, blood was running down my face. After we got clear of the danger of the boat, we started to rescue our comrades that was in the water. We had no one to man our boats, so we carried on ourselves. We had pulled one out of the water and giving treatment, we saw another that was nearly dead, so we pulled towards him. On reaching him, tried to pull him into our boat. But failed as our boat had so many in, it overturned and we were in distress but only swimming about for about 5 minutes. Other life boats came and pulled us out. We was floating about in these boats for nearly two hours. At last we saw smoke on the skyline, it was the H.M.S Heroic coming to the rescue at full speed, then came H. M. S. Shark. I thought my time had come. Went on board the Heroic and they gave us food and tea and comfort. Then we was taken to Athens and disembarked. Went on to the H. M. S, Duncan who had more comfort, and stayed with them nearly a fortnight. Some of our boys got to the shore with some of the wounded and attended to them, but they had no bandages. So they got the stewards to give them their white jackets over to make bandages of. We went to Poinyeers to bury four of t h e boys that had lost their lives in the terrible disaster. We lost 50 R.A.M.C. men and crew and 28 wounded, there was 1106 unhurt as far as known. But all suffered from the terrible shock. When

we was first hit we was knocked to the floor, we jumped ``up`` and was knocked to the floor again after the second torpedo hit. After a time at Athens we was took to Malta on the H. M S Grandtully Castle. Before disembarking Lord Methume came and congratulated us on our work. We was then taken to Manoel Hospital where we lay for a week with nerve shock. We was then taken on board the Hunseen which was a captured German boat we got into the gulf of Lions, where a terrible gale caught us. The waves was rolling over the top .The escort had to leave us and get into safety until morning A terrible gale caught us, waves was rolling over the top. The escort had to leave us and get into safety until morning, while we was tossing about all night. Then we started off again in sight of Marsales. The escort fired a floating mine 300yards in front of us.(Wind up again), The journey to Malta was four and a half days, then we entrained for Leharve. Just before we reached Meue , our train was in danger and pulled up sharp, and an express dashed past Then we completed our long train ride which took us 51 hours. Arrived at Leharve at 1- o clock in the morning. Went to a rest camp which was over shoe tops deep in mud. Left camp same day to embark on H. M. S. King George. For Southamton. (very rough.) Arrived Southamton 10-o clock, went and had f ood. Biscuits and bully beef as usual Then we entrained for Blackpool.Went into billet ! not had a wash or shave for 10 days through losing our kit. No money, no cigarettes.Waiting for leave and our

grand Hospital Ship lays under the water in the Agena
Agena Sea, the jee jannel.(From one of survivors who
was on board at the time o f the disaster.) Pte S. E.

Williams 48011.R.A.M.C/

45.Aylesbury Street,
Wolverton, Bucks.