

1911

HMS Foresight

January 1st to 31st

At Sheerness

February 1st to 23rd

At Sheerness

February 23rd to March 14th

At Chatham

March 16th to April 1st

Exercising of Falmouth

March 31st

Inspection. In spite of coaling yesterday, the ship looked very spick and span by noon, and at 2:00 PM Captain Paine inspected us which was a huge success. He said he was extremely pleased with everything, which is very satisfactory.

April 3rd to 11th

Exercising off Grimsby and Harwich

April 12 May 5th

At Sheerness and Chatham

April 18th

Pinner. I arranged to take Elsie to Pinner today to show her where my grandparents lived (Pinner Hall). On arrival we went straight to the lodge and asked to be allowed to go through the grounds. (I last stayed at the hall in Nov '84 after my examination for the Britannia in which I failed). We were permitted to walk through, Mr Nugent, the owner having left orders to the effect that any relations of Mr Bird to do so. Elsie and I then had lunch at the Queen's Head. The village is quite spoilt by a very suburban type of villa which is being built everywhere, also a fearsome erection (a dissenting Chapel) erected opposite the beautiful old church in the graveyard of which is a curious structure containing a stone coffin which protrudes at each end. We afterwards visited the cemetery containing the graves of my grandparents, also that of Horatia Ward (daughter

of Lord Nelson), my uncle's mother, who died in '81 within my recollection. Walter and I as boys stayed at West End House in the spring of that year with Uncle Nelson who lived at Pinner for many years. We returned about 4:00 to Euston after a very happy day.



The floating coffin of William Loudon and his wife, Agnes Loudon in St John the Baptist Church, Pinner.

May 3rd

Circumcision. About 4:30 the doctors arrived to operate upon poor little Terrence and Elsie and I spent half an hour of mental anguish in the next room until he came to to from chloroform. It was, however, a very necessary thing to be done and was quite successful, but later on the pain caused him to scream terribly.

May 6th to 14th

Exercising off Falmouth

May 15th to 23rd

At Sheerness

May 15th

Kaiser's visit. H.I.M. and the Empress with their daughter are paying a visit to this country for the unveiling of the Victoria Memorial opposite Buckingham Palace, and they have been received in London with great enthusiasm.

May 25th to 31st

At Harwich

May 31st to June 13th

At Sheerness

June 2nd to 12th

On leave

July 13th to 21st

North Sea and Irish Sea manoeuvres

June 19th

39th birthday

June 21st

To London. To London, arriving about 9:15 at Lexham Gardens, Kensington where I met dear Elsie and we stay for two nights for the Coronation with her uncle, Charles Martelli.

June 22nd

Coronation. Walked through the park and saw the crowds, also heard the salute fired soon after 11:00 to announce the fact of King George V having been crowned. To York Terrace to lunch and afterwards to the club with Elsie from which we saw the troops forming up and dispersing. The crowds were a little disappointing, not so many people as was anticipated. We saw the peers and peeresses returning in their coronation robes from the Abbey and later walked along the line of the route to see the decorations and to Buckingham Palace where the King and Queen had appeared to the people and a large crowd had collected. We were somewhat surprised to see Walter (my brother) here, who had ridden his bicycle from Chatham. In the evening we walked along Piccadilly to see the illuminations and to Trafalgar Square. The squash was tremendous and progress very slow until we sought a shortcut through the park.



The coronation parade of King George V and Queen Mary of Teck

June 23rd

Royal Progress. Elsie and I to the Limited Services Club where I had seats by ballot for the Royal Progress. Very good ones looking onto Waterloo Place and up Pall Mall. We had no difficulty in getting there owing to the excellent police arrangements and my being in uniform. The procession was a magnificent sight. The King and Queen stayed for a few minutes opposite the club to receive an address. They looked a little tired, I thought which is not surprising. We had lunch at the club and I met a lot of fellows I knew, so it was very comfortable way of seeing the procession.

July 8th

Terrence and the weather. The summer so far has been phenomenal for heat and dryness. I found Terrence has not been very well lately, suffering much from the heat, and he did not seem up to the mark, but as it is a month since I last saw him, I notice that he has grown a good deal.

July 21st to August 4th

At Sheerness

July 26th to August 3rd

On leave

August 2nd

Baby's escape. We had a nasty shock this morning. Nurse put baby in his perambulator in the garden end on to the slope of the grass bank. It took charge and ran down about 20 yards until it was brought up and overturned in some laurel bushes. Luckily baby was strapped in and so did not fall out, but the consequences might have been disastrous. Spent the forenoon at Northwood and in the woods with Elsie and baby, who was none the worse for his adventure this morning.

August 6th to 20th

Exercising of East and West coasts of Scotland

September 13th

Rhu. To Greenock in the forenoon and by steamer to Row (pronounced Rhu, spelling altered to Rhu recently – noted 22nd Nov '44), where I had lunch at Dalarne with Mrs Webster. Row looking at its best. *[Note – CT's grandson CST (and my father) lived in Rhu for a number of years as he was posted to HMS Faslane]*

September 15th

War scare. To my astonishment, in the early morning I received a startling cypher telegram to proceed to Kirkwall at full speed, all our practises being suspended. It looks very much like war with Germany over the Morocco question as there has been great tension lately with France and the situation has been alarming for some time. We left in the forenoon but received subsequent orders not to proceed at full speed.

September 16th to 20th

At Kirkwall

September 17th

War scare. The tension somewhat reduced owing to some agreement having been come to between France and Germany, but still the situation is serious.

[note – in 1911, France sent considerable troops to Morocco to prevent uprising. Germany responded by sending their gunboat SMS Panther to block the port of Agadir leading to the threat of war – The Agadir Crisis. In November the Franc-German Accord was signed in which Germany recognised France's territorial concessions in Morocco and France recognised Germany's in Congo.]



Agadir: the Kaiser goes swimming, and reaches out...a British cartoonist's view, 1911.

September 22nd to October 10th

At Harwich

October 11th to 12th

Passage to Portland

October 13th to 19th

At Portland

October 20th to November 14th

At Sheerness

November 7th

Orders for Harwich. When I got on board today, I heard the news that we have to go back to Harwich next week and spend the winter there. It was a fearful blow, especially having just taken our house for six months. To Chatham in the afternoon to find out whether it was true and found it to be so. Elsie and I were terribly sad as well we might be, having been led to suppose that we were to spend the winter here *[note - Sheerness]*.

November 15th to January 4th

Harwich

November 25th to December 12th

Leave

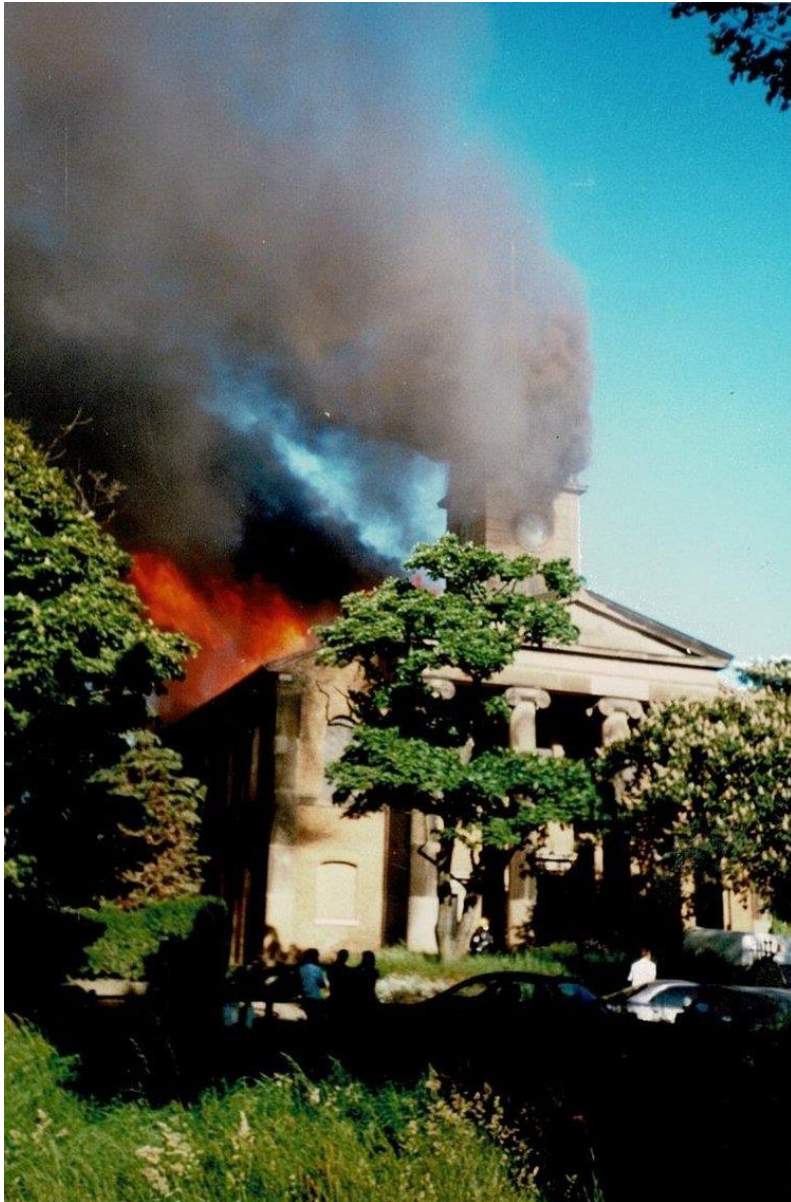
December 21st to December 27th

Short Christmas leave

December 25th

Christmas Day. A quiet Christmas Day with Elsie. We attended the Dockyard Church and stayed for communion. Terence now begins to crawl.

[note – the Navy closed the Sheerness Dockyard in 1960, after which many buildings including the Dockyard Church fell into disrepair and in 2001 a fire gutted much of the building and destroyed the roof. After 3 years of repairs, The Sheerness Dockyard Preservation Trust reopened the Church as IslandWorks, a co-working space in Jun 2023]



Sheerness Dockyard Church fire on 30th May 2001

December 31st

Promotions. The promotions to captain were announced at midnight and our prospects do not look very brilliant.