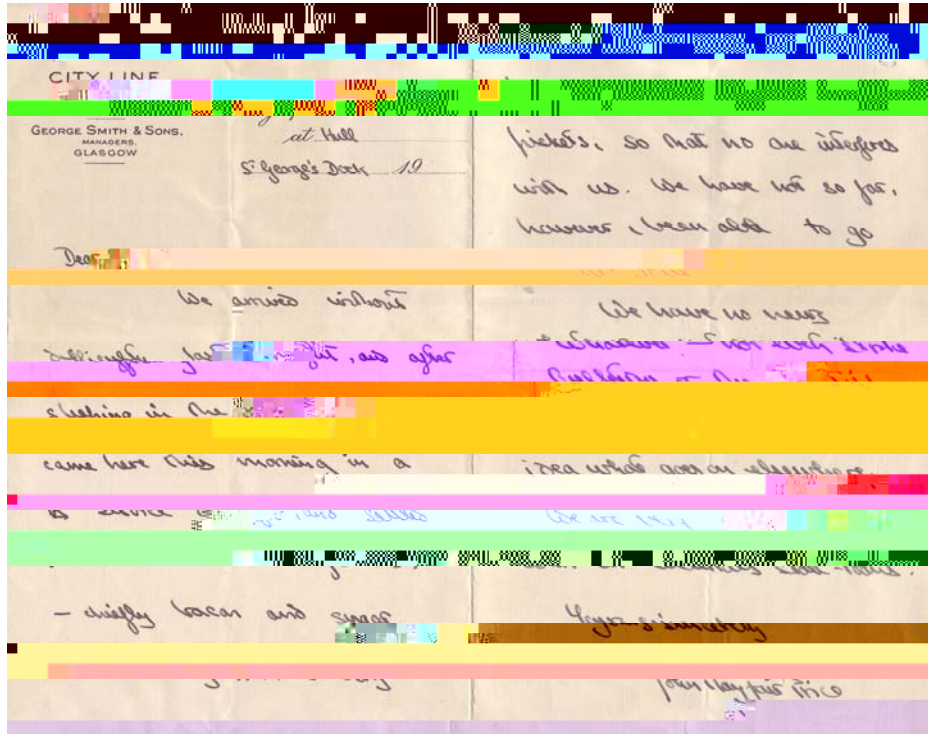
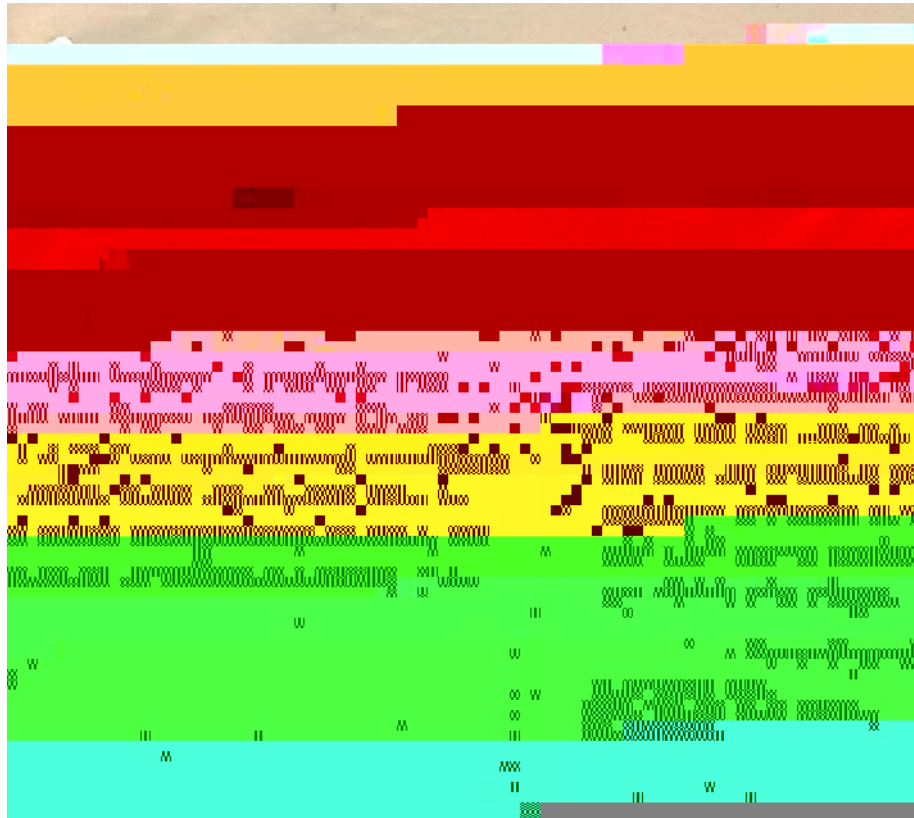


## **Warden Fisher and the General Strike in 1926**

The long series of industrial disputes which had dogged the coal industry since the end of the First World War resulted in the Trades Union Congress calling for the first



The New College contingent working in the docks at Hull were lodged each night on board *SS City of Paris* in the King George Dock, to avoid confrontations with the strikers, while the New College tram-drivers were lodged in the Constitutional Club, but very few of them reported much trouble despite the wish voiced by one to 'see a few brickbats flying about'. Stanley Revill was highly amused at the willingness of elderly residents of Hull to 'be bumped about by a distinctly amateurish [tram] driver', and at the hostility of the strikers who were 'apparently unable to differentiate between black-legs and Oxford undergraduates. Most of them, especially the ladies, are surprisingly rude, with marvellous vocabularies'.



By 13<sup>th</sup> May it was all over, and Warden Fisher wrote to the volunteers urging their swift return to Oxford and academic life. The documents in NCA 2802, which are clearly not complete, indicate that at least 83 New College students responded to the national emergency: over one third of the 266 junior members of college at that time.

Jennifer Thorp (Archivist, New College)