

Albert Franklin

203461

1/4 Batt Duke of Wellingtons
West Riding Regt

Hertfordshire Regiment stamp

Pte A Franklin 5226
A.Coy 4th Batt 1st Herts
Thetford
Norfolk
24/1/16

Dear Ted

Just a few lines in answer to your letter which I received safely. I hope you are getting on alright, as I am. I don't know I am sure how long we shall be here, but there's a good many rumours going about. Some say we are going to Chelmsford in a fortnight's time and others say St.Albans, previous to going to India. If we get St.Albans I shall be pleased as it is only six miles from home you know. I don't suppose you have heard from George yet, nor have I, but of course it takes a long while to get a letter from B.E. Africa so you must not get downhearted if you have wait a week or two for a letter. Well I don't think I have any more to say this time. I don't know of course whether I shall see you when you are home again, as I may be abroad, but still, lets hope the war will be over and I am home again by then so I will close hoping you are quite well, with fondest love.

I Remain Your Loving Brother
Albert



Mr A. Franklin 5226.
A Coy 4th Batt 1st Wests
Thetford
Norfolk.
24/1/16

Dear Ted.

Just a few lines in answer to your letter which I received safely. I hope you are getting on alright as I am. I don't know I am sure how long we shall be here, but there's a good many rumours going about. Some say we are going to Chelmsford in a fortnight's time and others say St. Albans, previous to going to India. If we get St. Albans I shall be pleased as it is only six miles from home you know. I don't suppose you have heard from George yet, more have I, but of course it takes a long while to get a letter from B.E. Africa so you must not get downhearted if you have wait a week or two for a letter. Well I don't think I have any more to say this time. I don't know of course whether I shall see you when you are home again, as I may be abroad, but still lets hope the war will be over and I am home again by then, so I will close, hoping you are quite well with fondest love.

I Remain Your Loving Brother
Albert.

24th Jan. 1916

Pte A Franklin 5226
B Coy 4th Batt 1st Herts
Thetford
Norfolk

Dear Ted

Just a few lines hoping they will find you quite well as they leave me at present. I shall be glad when it is time for you to come home again, I don't suppose it will be long now, will it. I think I can manage to get home when you do this time at any rate I hope so. I suppose its only about another seven weeks before you will be home. I will send you some money in my next letter as at present we are not allowed out of camp at all, so I couldn't get a P.O., but you shall have it as soon as possible.

Well dear Ted theres know news much to tell you, so I must close now hoping you are quite well with fondest love.

I Remain
Your Ever Loving Brother
Albert

Cheer up old boy it won't be long now.

29th May 1916

Pte A. Franklin 5226
B. Coy 4th Bn 1st Wests
Thetford
Norfolk
29/5/16.

Dear Ted

Just a few lines hoping they will find you quite well as they leave me at present. I shall be glad when it is time for you to come home again, I don't suppose it will be long now, will it. I think I can manage to get home when you do. This time at any rate I hope so. I suppose it's only about another seven weeks before you will be home. I will send you some money in my next letter as at present we are not allowed out of camp at all, so I couldn't get a P.O., but you shall have it as soon as possible. Well dear Ted there's know news much to tell you,

so I must close now hoping you are quite
well with fondest love.

I Remain

Your Ever Loving
Brother
Albert.

Cheer up old boy it won't be long now.

No 6735
Northumberland Fusiliers
Folkestone
Wed. Morn 8.30am

Dear Mum and Dad

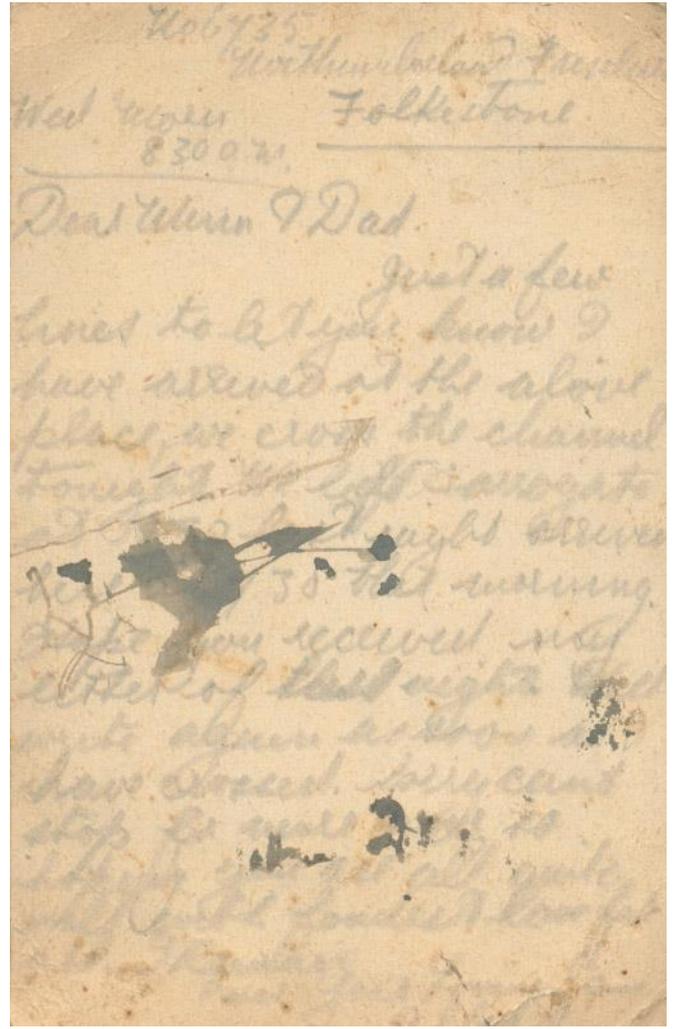
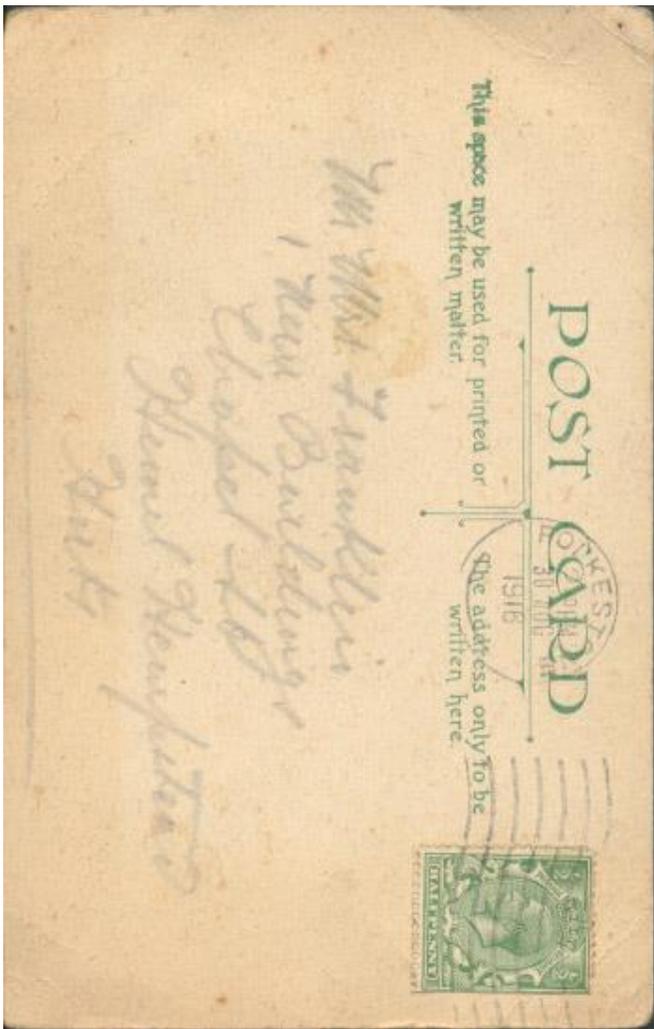
Just a few lines to let you know I have arrived at the above place, we cross the channel tonight. We left Ramsgate atlast night arrived here....[7.30] this morning. Hope you received my letter of last night. Will write again as soon as I have crossed. Sorry can't stop hoping you are all quite well with fondest love for all

I Remain

Ever Your Loving Son

Albert

30th Aug 1916



Pte A Franklin 6735
6th Northumberland Fusiliers
32nd J.B.D/c/o A.P.O
S17. B.E.F. France

Dear Mum & Dad

Just a few lines hoping they will find you quite well, as they leave me at present. I have arrived at the base as you see by the address. At present we are under canvas, a considerable distance from the firing line I should say, as we haven't heard the sound of a gun yet.

Hope you got my card alright, from Folkestone. Don't trouble to send me cigarettes, as we are allowed five packets a week, and I still have a host of them which we were given at Folkestone left.

Have seen some of the Herts boys, but not any from about H.H. yet, expect I shall later. We are getting on alright for grub too, so don't send anything out please. Of course I can't write much to you, as it will (be) censored, but I will write as often as possible. I know you worry about me, but cheer up I'll be alright. I joined the Army to fight and I mean to stick it, chance what comes.

Of course I would sooner have stuck to the Herts boys, but we are in a damn good Regt. and in due course we shall find ourselves in the fighting Fifth's. Well I must close now hoping this will find you well with best love to all,

I Remain
Ever Your Loving Son,
Albert

16th Sept. 1916

10th of Franklin 6735
6th Northumberland Terrace
32 T. B. D. / 10 N. C. O.
117. B. E. 7. France

Dear Mam I Dad
and a few times hop-
ing they will find you quite well,
as they leave me at present. I
had arrived at the base as you
see by the address. As present
we are (under circumstances) a consid-
erably distant from the front
line. I should say as the boys
heard the sound of a gunshot.
Hope you got my card slightly
from Folkestone. Don't trouble
to send me cigarettes, as we are
allowed five packets a week, and
I still have a box of them,
which we will give at Folkestone
left. Have seen some of the
Nerts boys, but not any from

about 24th yet, expect I shall
later. We are getting on alright
for grub too. So don't send any
thing on I please. Of course I
can't write much to you, as
it will censor, but I will write
as often as possible, I know
you worry about me, but cheer up
Get to sleep. I joined the
Army to fight and I mean to
stick it. Chance what I come
to the front I would soon have
to go to the Nerts boys, but
we are in a damn good way
and in due course we shall
find ourselves in the fighting
front. Well I must close now
hoping that will find you
well with best love to all.

I Remain
Ever Your Loving Son
Albert

No 7060 ¼ D of
Wellington's
West Riding Regiment
No 14 Platoon D Coy
B.E.F. France

26th Sept

Dear Lil

Thanks very much for your most welcome letter of this morning. I'm sorry to say I haven't received the parcel Mum sent yet, but I may get it in due course as you see charging about as I have been doing made it very difficult for the post people. I thank Mum all the same, it is very good of her, although I don't wish her to do things like that. I will enquire about it anyway.

Well I'm back from the line now with the battalion for a rest of a few days, after having had a week up there. I got through alright on my first do anyway, although it was said to be one of the hottest places the Batt had been in since they have been in France. We were bombarded continually, in fact at times it seemed more like rapid fire than an ordinary salvo from big guns. But I think it is the last kick of a dying cat. I can tell you we were pretty specimens when weout of the trenches, smothered in mud from head to foot. The Bosches make pretty good carpets for the trenches, at any rate I think so, it will be a good thing when we can say, we have put the stopper on them for good and all.

& it was fine for us to find buses waiting for us, when we came out of the trenches, in fact it seemed like coming up from Boxmoor, but of course the object of the journey was different that's all, you know what I mean.

Sorry to hear George has been laid up with fever, I hope he will get over it alright. How is Ted getting on. I have a letter from Aunt Julia today forwarded on from base, that gives me hope of getting Mum's parcel. I have one thing I would like you to send out to me, some Harrison's Pomade, or some such stuff, although I am not quite on theI am ayet but I like to feel I am not like that, so if you will please I shall be greatly obliged.

It is rather sad for those Mothers at Redbourn, isn't it. Well I don't think I can say more at this time, but you will remember me to Aunt Sarah, Grandfather-mother and all others that might enquire as to what I am getting on like, so hoping you, Mum and Dad and all are quite well, and give Gladys an extra kiss for me, bless her little heart. With the very best love for all and also hoping you all keep well until my return from my holidays in France

I still remain

Ever Your Loving Brother

Albert

Are we downhearted, ho no but Fritz is (Merci Comrade)

26th Sept 1916

No 7060 1/4 D of Wellington's
West Riding Regt.
No 14 Platoon D Coy
B. E. F. France

26th Sept

Dear Lil

Thanks very much for your most welcome letter of this morning. I'm sorry to say I haven't received the parcel Miss sent yet, but I may get it in due course as you see changing about. I have been doing made it very difficult for the post people. That's all the same, it is very good of her, although I don't wish her to do things like that. I will enquire about it anyway. Well I'm back from the line now with the battalion for a rest of a few days, after having had a week up there. I got through alright on my first do anyway, although it was said to be one of the hottest

places, the Batt had been in
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most the last kick of a dying
cat. I can tell you we were
pretty specimens, when we
went out of the trenches, smothered
in mud from head to foot,
The Boches make pretty good
carpets for the trenches, at any
rate I think so, it will be
a good thing when we can
say, we have put the stopper
on them ~~and~~ for good and all.
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waiting for us, when we came
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Bonmoor, but of course the

object of the journey was different
that's all, you know what I mean.
Sorry to hear George is been laid
up with fever, I hope he will
get over it alright. Now is I ed
getting on. I find a letter from
Aunt Julia today forwarded on
from Rose, that gives me more
hopes of getting Mamma's parcel.
I had one thing I would like
you to send out to me, some
Parrison's pomade, or some such
stuff, although I am not quite
out the eye when I am a little
yet but I like to feel I am
not like that, so if you will
please, I shall be greatly obliged.
It is rather sad for those who live
at Redbourn don't it. Well
I don't think I can say more
this time, but you will
remember me to Aunt Sarah,
Grandfather - mother and all
others that might enquire

~~My dear Mother & Sister~~

~~Monday 11/1/49~~

~~Dear Mother & Dad~~

as to what, I am getting over
like, so hoping you, Mum
& Dad and all the yours well
and give Gladys an extra kiss
for me, Bless her little heart,
with the very best love for
all and a big happy

all keep well until my
return from my holidays
in France.

I still remain

Ever your loving Brother
Albert

As we downhearted, so no
but Fritz is, (Merci Comrade)

No 7060 Scout Section
Hdqrs' Coy ¼ Batt
D. of Wellington's
West Riding Regt
B.E.F. France

Oct 7th

Dearest Mother & Father

Thanks awfully for your nice letter received this morning dated Sept 28th. Please to hear you are all pretty well at home at present and hope you will keep so until my return. I am in the pink at present, quite happy too much alive. Very sorry about that parcel, it is a plain proof somebody is on the make somewhere, but woe betide anyone that gets caught at the job. Thank you very much for it all the same, it was very kind of you and I'm sorry to think it has gone west. But as you say it is no use crying over spilt milk. As you see I am a scout now, of course it is rather a tricky job at times, but then no matter *what* you are at it is all risky out here. I had the pleasure of getting within speaking distance of the bosches the other night, whilst out on patrol. We gave them a few pills and they squeaked somewhat, but pleased to say we all returned safely to our trenches, none the worse for our adventure. At present we are out for a short rest but go back into the line in a day or two. It is quite quiet in this sector though. My word the old Bosches will look up soon, one more decent sweep and no more German army, it won't last much longer I feel sure.

Fancy old Jack Andrews swanking in his topper at H.H. again. Ah, I would like to have had him the side of us the last time we went in the line, I guess he wouldn't have had a conscientious spirit after that lot. They have been rousing Hempstead chaps up again, then. Well the more the merrier, if you see old [H.] Anderson again you might tell him I can do with a trim up. You might let me have old W. Mc Cullock's address if you can get it please, are they living at H.H. Well I think George is getting on pretty well to all accounts don't you. I hope he will soon be home with you. How is Ted progressing, I haven't had time to write to the poor little chap yet. Well I suppose I must bring this short parable to a conclusion now and turn in for the night, so hoping you will keep in the very best of health and happiness, with the best of love to all Goodbye and Goodluck.

I Still Remain

Ever Your Loving Son

Albert

PS. Remember me to all who inquire about me.

7th October 1916

No 7060 Sound sections
Edgely Coy 1/2 B A H
D. of Wellington
West Riding Regt
B. S. F. St. Anne

Oct 7th

Dearest Mother & Father

Thanks awfully
for your nice letter received that
evening dated Sept 29th. Please
to bid you are all pretty well
at home at present and hope
you will stay so until your
return. I am in the same
at present quite happy and
too much to bid. Very sorry
about that parcel, it is a plain
proof somebody is on the make
somewhere but we will let
one that gets caught at the
job. Thank you very much for
it all the same, it was very
kind of you and I'm sorry to
think it has gone west.

But as you say it is no good
crying over spilt milk. As you
see I am a scout now of course
it is rather a risky job at times
-but then no matter you are at
it is all over, at least. I had the
pleasure of getting within speak-
ing distance of the trenches the
other night, whilst out on patrol.
We gave them a few pills and they
squealed somewhat, my pleasure
to say we all returned safely to
our trenches, none the worse for
our adventure. At present we are
out for a short spell, but go back
into the line in a day or two. It
is quite quiet in this sector
though. My word the old Boches
will look up soon, our small
recent sweep and ~~few~~^{no} more
German army it won't last
much longer I feel sure.

I fancy old Jack Andrews want
my top at N. H. again.
Oh, I would like to have had
him the side of us the first
time we went in the line. I
guess he wouldn't have had
a conscientious spirit after that
lot. They have been pouring
dumplings chaps up again. They
well the more the merrier, if you
see old D. Anderson again. You
might tell him I don't do with
a servant. You might let me
have old White. Collopy's address
if you can get it please, are
they living at N. H. Well I
think Gaber is getting on
pretty well to all accounts don't
you think he will soon be
joined with you. How is Ted
progressing I haven't had time
to write to the poor little chap
yet. Well I suppose I must
bring this short parable.

to a conclusion now and turn
in for the night so hoping you
will keep in the very best of
health and happiness with
the best of love to all Goodbye
and Goodluck.

I Still Remain

Ever Your Loving Son

Albert

P.S.

Remember me to all who
inquire about me.

Paper headed "SOLDIERS' CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION CAMP HOME"
Top left-hand corner cut out.

Sat. 15th Oct

Dear Mother and Father

Thanks very much indeed for parcel received safely this morning, it is kind of you indeed but I'm sure I don't wish for you to do that, as I know what it is to get things now, and besides you want somebody to give you something. Well I marked time on the parcel this time, it came with last night's mail. I went in to searching for it this morning. Contents were all quite alright, fruit wasn't squashed as it generally is.

I will make things lively tonight with the pomade I bet, it will be a change for me. Lizzie seems to know our experiences and imagine our feelings out here according to postcard, doesn't she, well she is about right for once. I will keepfor a souvenir of the war. Well we shall be going back from the line probably tomorrow for a rest. It has been nothing more than a rest here though, for in fact at times it seemed there wasn't a war on, if it hadn't been for a ticklish feeling round our bodys, you know what I mean. Oh by the way when I sent that card from the base I hope it didn't upset you, as of course I know you won't forget me and I couldn't find another one suitable, the others were birthday or love cards.

I hope all at home are keeping well and cheerful. We have a fine dug-out here, a nice fireplace and every convenience so you see we are not doing so bad. I reckon the bosche are nearly done now, it is a treat to see our aeroplanes circling over their lines, they go as if only on a pleasure trip. Well I think this is all for present, so trusting you are all well, with the very best love from France. Au Revoir

I still remain your loving son Albert.

P.S Thanks again for parcel

Saturday 15th Oct 1916

SOLDIERS' CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
CAMP HOME.



Dear Mother & Father,

Thanks very much

Sat. 15. 1916.
 indeed for parcel received safely. This morning it is heard of you indeed but
 I'm sure I don't wish for you to do that, as I know what it is to get things
 now, and besides you want somebody to give you some things. Well I started
 this on the parcel this time it came with letters with it. I went in to
 searching for it. This morning, contents were all quite bright, first was in
 and then as it usually is. I will make things lively though, it with the pound
 I had it with it. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 I might not feel like I do. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
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 we should be good to see from the line probably tomorrow for a week, it has
 been nothing. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 ed they want a way on if it helps. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 round out. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 that card from the. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 won't be. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 were birthday of love cards. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 cheerfulness. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 members so you see we get most done so fast. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 nearly done now, it is a heavy. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 Lizzie. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and
 present. I shall be a stranger for me. Lizzie seems to know the experience and

On paper headed with a YMCA logo and "On Active Service with the British Expeditionary [Force]"
Top right-hand corner cut off.

21st Oct

Dear Mother and Father

Thanks very much

For letter received safely this afternoon, dated 15th Oct. I expect you will have received my other letter to thank you for parcel by now. I have received Gazettes regularly thank you. As you say scouting is rather tricky work but I am getting on all right with it. But there's one thing I should like to say I believe there's a war on. At present we're out for a short rest, I expect we shall be going back into the line [4 words scribbled out (by censor?)]. As you will see by paper there's a Y.M.C.A. here yes and we find a great boon to us after coming out of line, I can tell you. I should think they will soon have all the eligible chaps from Hempstead soon, of course some seem to hang back with exemptions . I suppose some will get out of it, it all depends what a chap has got inside him, you know what I mean.

Sorry to hear Grandfather has been queer again and I hope he will soon pick up again, poor old chap has worked to much I'm afraid. Gladys bless her little heart still remembers me then, well [goes over the page, several lines cut off here as corner missing]...soon finish and we all get...I think this is all for this...with fondest love for...this will find you all in...spirits. Goodnight

Your Loving Son Albert

21st Oct 1916



On Active Serv

WITH THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY

21st Oct.

Dear Mother & Father B.C.F.

France.

I thank very much
for letter received safely this afternoon dated 15th Oct.
I expect you will have received my other letter to thank
you for parcel by now. I have received Gazettes regularly
thank you. As you say scouting is rather busy work
but I am getting on a bright with it. But there's one
thing I should like to say I believe there's a war on.
At present we are out for a short rest, I expect we
shall be going back into the line ~~soon~~
~~as~~ you will see by paper there's a bit of a
yes and we find a great boon to see after coming
out of line, I can tell you, I should think they will
soon have all the eligible chaps from ~~the~~ ~~line~~ ~~of~~ ~~course~~
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I suppose some will get out of it, it all depends what
a chap has got inside him you know what I mean.
Some of our grandfathers has been queer again and
hope he will soon pick up again poor old chap
has worked to much in a day. Gladys's little
her little heart still remembers us then, in all

our finish and we all get
that. I think that's all for this
all with fondest love for
I'll find you all in
and spirit. Goodnight

Your Loving Son
Albert

No 7060 Scout Section Hdqr's Coy
1/4th Batt Duke of Wellingtons W.R.R
B.E.F. France

Nov 6th

Dear Mother and Father

Just a few lines trusting they will find you quite well as they leave me at present. I should have wrote before, but I haven't hardly known what to do about it as I have been looking out for parcel, but so far it has failed to turn up. I have seen mail every night since I had your letter but I haven't seen anything of parcel yet. I gave it about twice the time as I know there's been a bit of a stoppage of boats in the channel. At any rate it ought to have turned up before now. If it is going on like this, I would rather you not send any, as it *is* simply a waste of money and I know you can't afford to throw stuff away like that. Somebody is evidently making himself happy out of Tommies' parcels, but whoever it may be, they should find out. Anybody who does a thing like that should be shot. Well we have just come back into line again now, I suppose it will be the usual six days in. The weather here is not of the best now, but of course we can't expect it now, this time of the year. Well you see of course we are progressing by the papers, of course it is slow but sure, The Bosches won't last much longer, we can stick it if they can and I guarantee we shall come out on top that's a cert. If they send a shell over, well they just get about six back for it so it pays them to keep quiet you see. Of course people in England think it is unbearable out here, not a bit of it, I thought so when I was in England, but have found out it...

6th Nov 1916 Only part of letter

Nov 6th No 4000 ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~Wells~~ ~~Coy~~
1/4 ~~But~~ ~~of~~ ~~Washington~~ ~~RR~~
B. E. F. Parcel

Dear Mother & Father

Just a few lines trusting they will find you quite well as they leave me at present. I should have wrote before but I haven't hardly known what to do about it as I have been looking out for parcel but so far it has failed to turn up. I have seen mail every night since I have been in it. I haven't seen anything of parcel yet. I gave it about twice the time as I know there's been a bit of a stoppage of boats in the channel. At any rate it ought to have turned up before now. If it is going on like this, I would rather you not send away as it simply a waste of money and I think you can't afford to throw stuff away like that somebody is even ~~making~~ ~~a~~

himself happy out of business,
purchasing the whole of the money by they
should find out anybody who does
see things like that in my opinion
should be shot. Well we have just
come back into line again now
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is not of the best now, but of course
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of the year. Well you see of course
we are progressing by the papers,
of course it is slow but sure. The
Bosches won't last much longer,
we can stick it if they can and
I guarantee we shall come out on
top that's a cert. If they send a
shell over, well they just get along
six back for it. But it tells them
to keep quiet you see. Of course
people in England think it is
unbearable out here, not a bit of
it, I thought so when I was in
England, but have found out it

No 7060 Scout Sect Hdqr's Coy,
1/4th Batt Duke of Wellington's
West Riding Regt
B.E.F. France

Sat 18th Nov

Dearest Mum & Dad

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter received safely last night, also Gazette. I see up to time of your writing, you had not received my other letter to say I had received your parcel, but no doubt you will have done by now. Am very pleased to hear you are all quite well at home, personally I am in the pink. I see you have had some rough weather in Blighty, here it has not been so bad this last week except it is very fresh, this morning we have had our first fall of snow about an inch that's all. So you have been busy with the old hen run then, made it pretty strong now, though I guess, I daresay the old hens lay as well as usual.

George it appears is on the move now, pleased to hear he is keeping pretty well now. So Mrs Smeathman is sending me a parcel, well it will come in alright, nothing is wasted out here, although we don't get badly fed at all, better than I thought was possible considering the large army of today.

At night even we always get something to warm us up at about eleven o'clock, either boiled rice or soup, so there's nowt to grumble at. W.M.C. has been in again to you then, I suppose he is still working in London. Pleased to hear Grandfather is better now, poor old chap.

Yes, as you say we are waking them up now, yes and by God we will do it yet. Thanks for Aunt Sarahs address, will probably write to her tonight. At present we are in the line, have just got back from a very good week's rest. Whilst we were out, I amused myself watching aeroplane fights, our machines simply play with them like mice, I had the pleasure of seeing one or two brought down. Our machines are as plentiful as sparrows out here [missing piece of letter]... Well I think this is all just now so trusting this will find you all well and happy at home with the very best of love to all. Gladys bless her little heart, just give her a few extra kisses for me.

I Still Remain

Ever Your Loving Son

Albert

18th Nov 1916

No 7060 Scout Sect High Coy
1/4th Batt Duke of Wellington's
West Riding Regt
B. E. F. France

Sat 18th Nov

Dearest Mum & Dad

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter received safely last night also Gazette. I set up to think of you & writing you had not received any other letter to say I had received your parcel, but ~~with~~ no doubt you will have done by now. Am very pleased to hear you are all quite well at home, personally I am in the pink. I see you have had some rough weather in B. light, here it has not been so bad this last week except it is very fresh, this morning we have had our first fall of snow about an inch that's all. So you have been busy with the old hen run then, made it pretty strong now, though I guess, I daresay

the old man lay as well as usual.
George it appears is on the move
now, pleased to hear he is keeping
pretty well now. So Mrs. Smith
is sending me a parcel, well it will
come in alright, nothing is wasted
out here, although we don't get
badly fed at all, better than I
thought was possible, considering
the large army of to day. At night
even we always get something to
eat. I don't know if you
either boiled rice or soup, so there's
not to grumble at. W. M. C. has
been in again to see you then,
I suppose he is still working in
London. Please to hear Goodfather
is better now, poor old chap. Yes
as you say we are waking them
up now, yes and by god we will
do it yet. I want to for send to
address, will probably write to

to her tonight. At present we are in
the line, have just got back from
a very good week's rest. Whilst we
were out, I amused myself watching
airplane fights, our machines simply
play with them like mice, I had
the pleasure of seeing one or two
brought down. Our machines are as
plentiful as sparrows out here,
well. Well I think this is all
I now so trusting this will find
us all well and happy. I love
all the very best of love to all.
Glady's bless her little heart, just
give her a few extra kisses for me.

I Still Remain
Ever Your Loving Son
Albert

Dear Lil

Thanks very much for your most welcome letter and cigarettes and handkerchief, I am too late now to send you a gentle reminder for Xmas, I will see what I can do for New Year. The weather here is rather blustering at present, but we are well prepared for it, enough togs to start Harrods Stores and a big fire in our brasier, coal fire at that, we are not scouts for nothing I can assure you.

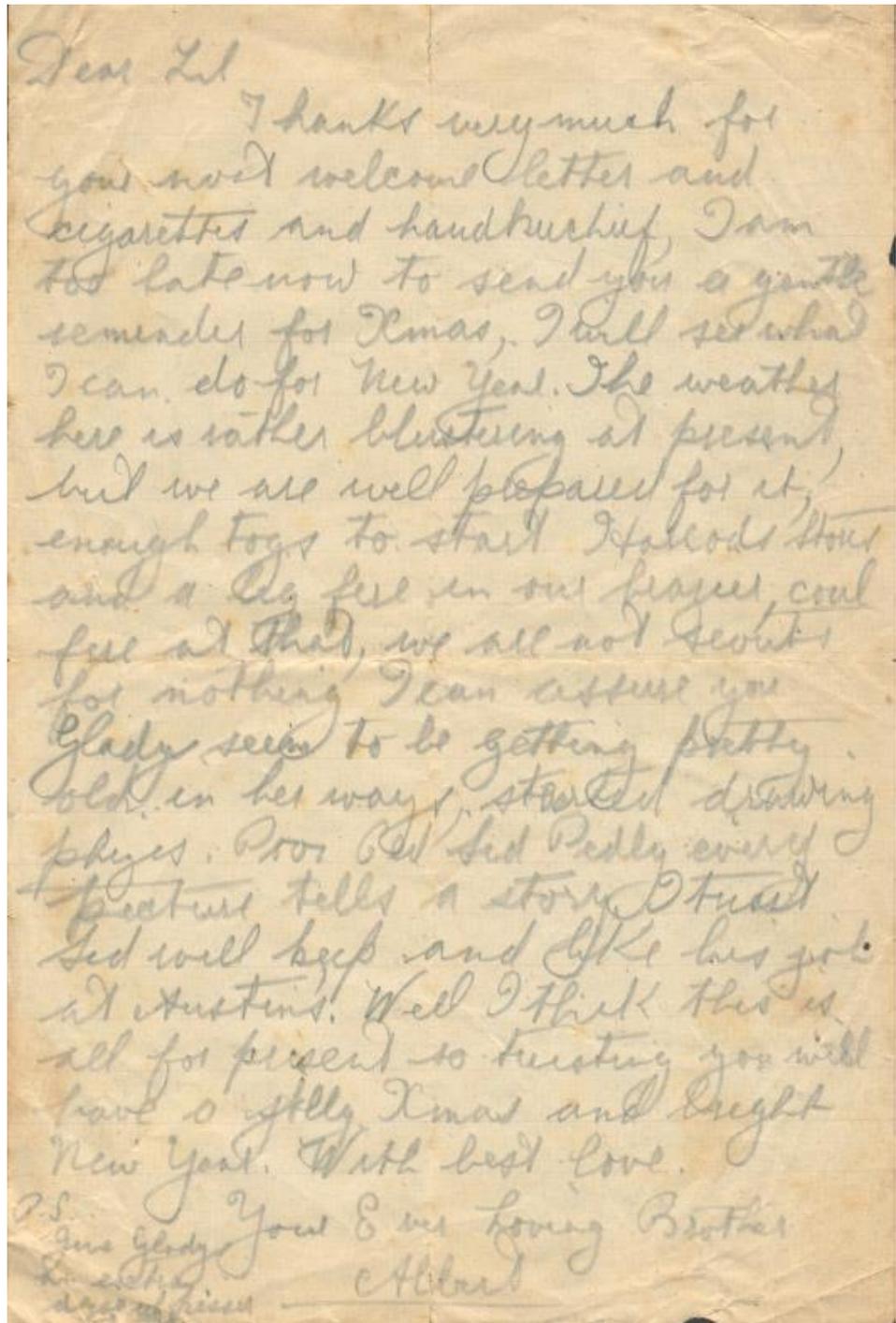
Gladys seems to be getting pretty old in her ways, started drawing [?]. Poor old Sid Peddy every picture tells a story. I trust Sid will keep and like his job at Austins. Well I think this is all for present so trusting you will have a jolly Xmas and bright New Year.

With best love

Your Ever Loving Brother Albert.

P.S. Give Gladys
an extra dose of
kisses for me.

Dec 1916



Dear Lil
I thank very much for
your most welcome letter and
cigarettes and handkerchief, I am
too late now to send you a gentle
reminder for Xmas, I will see what
I can do for New Year. The weather
here is rather blustering at present,
but we are well prepared for it,
enough togs to start Harrods Stores
and a big fire in our brasier, coal
fire at that, we are not scouts
for nothing I can assure you.
Gladys seems to be getting pretty
old in her ways, started drawing
pictures. Poor old Sid Peddy every
picture tells a story. I trust
Sid will keep and like his job
at Austins. Well I think this is
all for present so trusting you will
have a jolly Xmas and bright
New Year. With best love.
P.S. Give Gladys
an extra dose of
kisses for me.
Your Ever Loving Brother
Albert

No 7060 Scout Sect
Hdqr's Coy 1/4th Batt
Duke of Wellington's
W.R.R.B.E.F. France

1/12/16

Dear Mum & Dad

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter of last night. I also received one from W. Mc.C. Very pleased to hear you are all keeping pretty well at home and hope you will continue to do so. I myself am in the pink. Very sorry to hear about poor old George, I guess he's pretty queer, as you say, he'll probably get to Blighty with it, I hope he does. Of course it is just beginning to get a bit chilly out here, the same as you are having it, but otherwise it is nothing to grumble at. Of course we never really get cold, oh no, moss doesn't grow on the chaps of the B.E.F. So you have had a little snow then. Ted's got the shivers then, he'll have a worse attack of them in a week or two, I guess. Sorry to hear of Fred [Ephguines] death, his poor old Mother will be badly shook up now, I guess. The authorities have got mixed up with my number, then, you may depend they don't realize I am in the army, they can have as many different numbers as they like, but there's only one A.F.

What, you mean to say Jack Andrews still running at large. They best send him out here as I said before and put him on consolidating, we'll give him the option of wearing a silk topper, although it is running out of French fashion. Please to hear Grandfather is better again now, and hope he will keep so. Percy Ludlow isn't getting out of it then. Very sad about Lizzies mother isn't it. Well now turning to the usual rigmarole, we are at present in the line again now, but hope to be having a long rest before very long. We are still in a very quiet sector of line...

1st Dec 1916 Only part of letter.

1/12/16

No 7060 Scout Section
Helen's Coy 1/4 Badd.
Duke of Wellington's
W.R.R. B.E.F. France

Dear Mum & Dad

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter of last night. I also received one from W. M. C. Very pleased to hear you are all keeping pretty well at home and hope you will continue to do so, I myself am in the pink. Very sorry to hear about poor old George, I guess he's pretty queer, as you say he'll probably get to Blythe with it, I hope he does. Of course it is just beginning to get a bit chilly out

hell, the same as you all having it, but
otherwise it is nothing to exclaim
at. Of course we never really get
cold, oh no, moss doesn't grow on
the chaps of the B.C.T. so you have
had a little snow then. Ted's got
the shivers then, hell have a worse
attack of them in a week or two,
I guess. Sorry to learn of Fred's
death, his poor old mother, will
be badly shook up now, I guess.
The abolitionists have got mixed up
with my number then, you may
depend they don't realize I was in
the army, they can have as many
different numbers, as they like,
but there's only one A.F.

What, you mean to say Jack Andrews
still running at large. They best
send him out here as I said before
and put him on consolidating, well
give him the option of wearing a silk
topper, although it is running out
of French fashions. Please to hear
Grandfather is better again now,
and hope he will keep so. Percy
Sudlow isn't getting out of it then.
Very sad about Leggit's mother
isn't it. Well now turning to
the usual vignette, we are at
present in the line again now,
but hope to be having a long
rest before very long. We are still
in a very quiet sector of line.

No 7060 Scout Section
H.Q. Coy 1/4th Batt
Duke of Wellington's
W.R.R.B.E.F. France

11/12/16

Dear Mum & Dad

At last I am scribbling a few more lines. Thanks very much for parcel, my word the chaps thought my civy suit had come. It is really too good of you, as I'm sure I don't expect it, I know what it is like in Blighty just now, its quite different to what it was.

Thank Mr. Roberts very much indeed for gloves & socks for me if you will, also thank Lil, for pineapple & Sid for cigars. It's very thoughtful of them.

I am sending you a couple of French cards, one for Lil, and will send some more if I can see any different ones anyway.

I might tell you we are well away from the fighting zone now on rest and I think I can say expecting to having to spend Xmas out of trenches which will be nice, there's every prospect of us spending a very happy Xmas, although in France. I might say too that I learn more & more every day to know how to appreciate a jolly good home, although I think I can safely say that I haven't done anything to you in the past to be ashamed of. I have been a tormenting devil I'll admit, but when a chap is out here in the trenches, it brings him to his senses and makes him think of those left behind at dear old Blighty. Don't think by writing this parable I am getting chicken hearted, oh no not a bit of it, still some life in the old dog yet, too much perhaps for Fritz. The other day my mouth watered while on the march along a road here. It wasn't for Xmas puddings, it was to have a go at a batch of plucked Fritzie who happened to pass us.

We gave them the glad eye of course, but not the same as we give to tarts.

Talking about tarts, I see Dad gives me a pretty good knock on the plum pudding cards you sent.

I hope you have better news of George now, also hope Grandfather is well. I think this is all I shall miss mail or else so hoping this will find you quite well with fondest love to all hoping you all will spend a very happy Xmas with every success.

I remain still your Ever Loving Son Albert.

11th Dec 1916

Ngāroko Scout Section
M. Q. Coy 1/4 BATT.
11/12/16 Duke of Wellington's
W. R. R. B. C. F. France
Dear Mum & Dad
At last I am scrib-
bling a few more lines. Thanks very
much for parcel, my word the I
chaps thought my civvy suit
had come. Oh, it really too good
of you, as I'm sure I don't
expect it. I know what it is
like in Blighty. just now
it's quite different to what it was.
Thank you Robt's very much
indeed for gloves ^{and} for me if
you will, also thank him

for pineapple & bid for cigars,
It's very thoughtful of them.
I am sending you a couple of
French curls but for kiln and
will send some more if I can
see any different one anyway.
I might tell you we are well
away from the fighting & our
work is not bad I think I
can say respecting to having
to spend I was out of trenches
which will be nice, there's every
prospect of us spending a very
happy Texas, although in Texas
I might say too that I least
most or more every day to
no how to appreciate a

a jolly good home, although I
think I can safely say that
I haven't done anything for you
in the past to be ashamed of.
I have been a tormenting Devil
I'll admit, but when a chap
is out here in the trenches, it
brings him to his senses and
makes him think of those life
behind at dear old Blighty.
Don't think by writing this
prattle I am getting chicken
hearted, oh no not a bit of
it, still some life in the old
dog yet, for much perhaps
for fifty. The other day
my mouth watered while

on the march along a road here
it wasn't for Knox's pudding. It
was to have a go at a batch
of plucked Fritzie's who happened
to pass us. We gave them the
glad eye of course, but not the
same as we give to Fattie. Talking
about Fattie, I see Dad gives me
a pretty good knock on the
plum pudding cards you sent.

I hope you have better news of
Galganow, also hope Grandfather
is well. I think that is all I
shall miss mail or else so hoping
this will find you quite well
with fondest love to all hoping
you all will spend a very happy
Xmas with every success. I remain
Ever your truly loving Son Albert

No 7060 Scout Section
Hdqr's. Coy 1/4th Batt
Duke of Wellington's W.R.R
.B.E.F. France

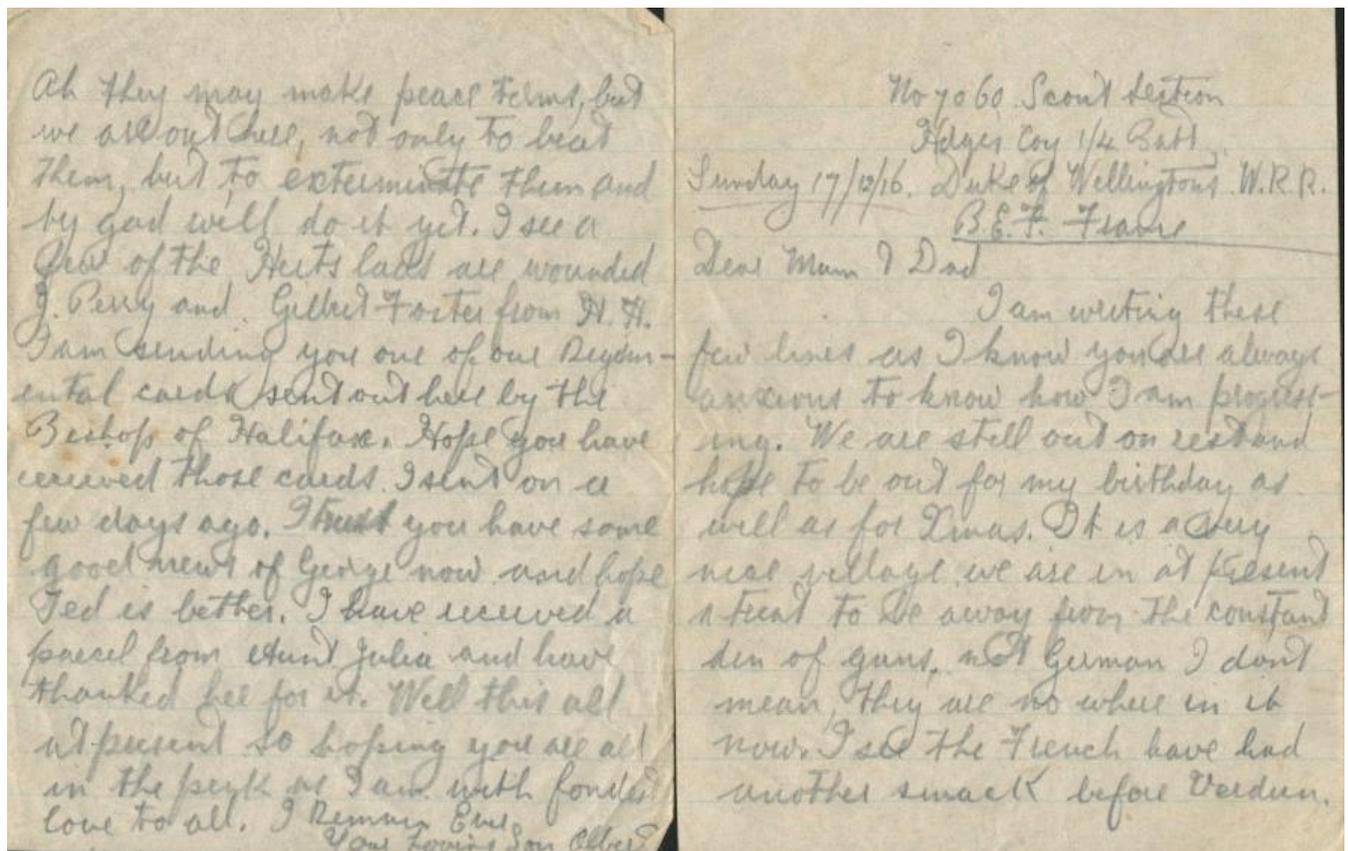
Sunday 17/12/16

Dear Mum & Dad

I am writing these few lines as I know you are always anxious to know how I am progressing. We are still out on rest and hope to be out for my birthday as well as Xmas. It is a very nice village we are in at present it's a treat to be away from the constant din of guns, not German I don't mean, they are no where in it now. I see the French have had another smack before Verdun. Ah they may make peace terms, but we are out here, not only to beat them, but to exterminate them and by God we'll do it yet. I see a few of the Herts lads are wounded J. Perry and Gilbert Foster from H.H.

I am sending you one of our regimental cards sent out here by the Bishop of Halifax. Hope you have received those cards I sent on a few days ago. I trust you have some good news of George now, and hope Ted is better. I have received a parcel from Aunt Julia and have thanked her for it. Well this all at present, so hoping you are all in the pink as I am. With fondest love to all, I remain Ever
Your Loving Son Albert

17th Dec 1916



Oh they may make peace terms, but we are out here, not only to beat them, but to exterminate them and by God we'll do it yet. I see a few of the Herts lads are wounded J. Perry and Gilbert Foster from H.H. I am sending you one of our Regimental cards sent out here by the Bishop of Halifax. Hope you have received those cards I sent on a few days ago. I trust you have some good news of George now and hope Ted is better. I have received a parcel from Aunt Julia and have thanked her for it. Well this all at present so hoping you are all in the pink as I am. With fondest love to all. I remain Ever
Your Loving Son Albert

No 7060 Scout Section
Hdqr's Coy 1/4th Batt
Duke of Wellington's W.R.R.
Sunday 17/12/16. .B.E.F. France
Dear Mum & Dad
I am writing these few lines as I know you are always anxious to know how I am progressing. We are still out on rest and hope to be out for my birthday as well as for Xmas. It is a very nice village we are in at present a treat to be away from the constant din of guns, not German I don't mean, they are no where in it now. I see the French have had another smack before Verdun.

Dear Mum & Dad,

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter of last night. Thanks very much for Mothers photo, its just like her, but as per usual poor Mum looks worried. I know what she's worrying about, it's about me and George. I can assure you there's no need to worry about me, as I am in the pink, in fact to see us in our own billet beside the fire, you wouldn't think there's a war on. As for George I can't say, but I trust by now you have has some good news of him,. Cheer up and I think all will turn out satisfactory. I am sending you a photo of some of the "Chimps [?] of No Mans Land"

No 7060 Scout Section Hdqr's. Coy 1/4th Batt
Duke of Wellington's W.R.R
.B.E.F. France 23/12/16

23rd Dec 1916

Dear Mum & Dad,

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter of last night. Thanks very much for mother's photo, it's just like her, but as per usual poor Mum looks worried I know what she's worrying about, it's about me and George. I can assure you there's no need to worry about me as I am in the pink, in fact to see us in our billet beside the fire, you wouldn't think there's a war on. As for George

No 7060 Scout Section High Wycombe Q.Batt
Duke of Wellington W.R.R.
B. E. F. Frankel. 23/12/16

I can't say, but I trust by now you had some good news of him. She's up and I think all will turn out satisfactory. I am sending you a photo of some of the "Trips of No. 11th Land"

2/2/17

Dear Lil,

Many thanks for your nice letter of last night, also for cigarettes & toffee. I know very well how much you all think of us absent ones, I feel I would like to send you something nice, but it is difficult out here you know. I keep promising you I'll send you something, but always disappoint you. Don't think for a moment we don't get any money out here, it's all a tale chaps saying they don't get it and the only trouble is to buy things. You may think that I am going through the hoop out here, but don't believe it, I might as well tell you that we very rare miss a good night's sleep, one thing to look at. Of course it's a little bit fresh out here, but that's nothing, we manage to keep warm you know, in fact life out here is not a quarter so bad as I imagined it was. So now believe me I am in the pink, I wish poor old George was the same but I am pleased to get some news of him. Of course I know Mum naturally worries about George, she always does about us, but just cheer her up, I'll buck her up, not half, when I get home, shan't be long now. I'll certainly send you a letter for George, and of course I won't mention anything that you wouldn't wish me to. I have as much brotherly love for George as I have for the rest, the past is forgotten, when you've done and said all, it was only natural for us to have rows whilst we were at home, it will be quite alright I can assure you when we all meet again at No.1 New Buildings.

I am just having some boiled rice at the time I am writing. I must really close now, hope you will excuse so short a scribble this time, but I want one to go in this letter for George, so I'll conclude hoping this will find you all in the pink with fondest love for all at home, Hope Mother is alright.

I Remain

Ever Your Loving Brother

Albert

Share them xxxxx

xxxxx

xxxxx

P.S. See if these few lines will do for George

7060 Scout Section
Hqr's Coy 1/4 Batt
Duke of Wellingtons
West Riding Regt
BEF France

2nd Feb 1917

2/2/17

Dear Lil.

Many thanks for your nice letter of last night, also for cigarettes & toffee, I know very well how much you all think of us absent ones, I feel I would like to send you something nice, but it is difficult out here you know, I keep promising you I'll send you something, but always disappoint you. Don't think for a moment we don't get any money out here, it's all a tale chiefly saying they don't get it out, the only trouble is to buy things. You may think that I am going through the hoop out here, but don't believe it, I might as well tell you that we very rarely must a good night's sleep, one thing took out. Of course it's a little bit fresh out here, but that's nothing, we

manage to keep warm you
know, in fact life out here is
not a quarter so bad as I
imagined it was. So now believe
me I am in the pink. I wish
poor old George was the same,
but I am pleased to get some
news of him. Of course I know
Mum naturally worries about
George, she always does about us
but just cheer her up, I'll be
back up and busy when I get
home, I don't stay long now. I'll
certainly send you a letter for
George, I said of course I won't
forget anything that you wouldn't
wish me to, I have as much
brotherly love for George as I
have for the rest, the past is
forgotten, when you've done and
said all it's was only natural
for us to have some whilst we

well at home, it will be quite
 alright I can assure you when we
 all meet again at No 1 New
 Building. I am just having
 some larded rice the time I am
 writing. I must really close now,
 hope you will excuse so short
 a scribble this time, but I want
 one to go in this letter for George,
 so I'll conclude hoping this will
 find you all in the pink with
 fondest love for all at home,
 Hope mother is alright.

I Remain

Ever your loving Brother
 Alfred

P.S. Say if these find
 I will do for
 George.

Share them

x x x x x
 x x x x x
 x x x x x

7860 Kentington
 High Coy 1/4 3rd
 Dept of Wellington
 1st Riding Coy
 65th Regt

France 28/3/17

Dear Mum & Dad

Many thanks for your most welcome letter of last night, also for photos. Well I am no doubt you are getting anxious about me as it is some time since I sent my last letter, but I'm so sorry but we have been rather busy of late. I am pleased to hear you are all pretty well at home, I myself am in the pink of perfection. The weather is...[illegible line] the sun shines almost like summer time and the next it is pouring with rain. As of course you can judge in the papers lately that we are causing

Fritz [?] trouble [illegible line]

George seems to be perking up fine now I am pleased to say and I hope he will soon be with you. Sorry to hear that the fever effected his sight slightly, but never mind, it is one great consolation to know that he is safe in Blighty again. I am glad you sent him one of those photos, poor chap seems to have been done out of most of his stuff

Of course his illness has allowed someone to take advantage of him, I have had it tried on me, but theres no flies on me. I am of the same opinion as George, that there is [some and some] in the British army. I also received a letter from Aunt Julia last night and am pleased to say they are all pretty well. Dad seems to have stepped in the limelight , instructor what? I guess that will keep some of the little devils out of mischief . What job is Will McCulloch on now at St Albans. So they have pinched old Parsons son at last then, it is about time too, I would like to have him out here with me, I could find him a job in a communication trench with a few bullets whizzing about his ears, perhaps Fritz would take notice of his cries of Conscientiousness(?). Pleased to hear Grandmother and Grandfather are keeping well, I'll have to drop them another line, as soon as possible. By the way did you ever receive that photo I sent you of my tantalizer, I mean that one of that girl that Lil knows, used to be at Hodgesons, [Amy/Army cook] now at Dunstable, I sent it in a green envelope, I should like to know if you have it. How is Aunt Sarahs arm(?) getting on. Well I am enclosing a few lines for George if you will forward them on with yours please.

Well Dear Mum & Dad I think this is all for present so I will conclude hoping this will find you all quite well & happy with fondest love to all.

I Still Remain Your Ever Loving Son
Albert

P.S. Same address.

28th March 1917.

France. 28/3/17

Dear Mum & Dad

Many thanks for your most
welcome letter of last night also for photos.
Well I am no doubt you are getting
anxious about me as it is some time
since I sent my last letter but I'm so
sorry but we have been in this line of
life. I am pleased to hear you are all
pretty well at home. I myself am in
the peak of perfection. The weather is
awful but we are all about the
summer time and we are all
with rain. As of course you can judge
by the papers that we are all doing
but to have trouble you think I'm
my) has trouble for all relief with
with. If he could and shall be kept
about a dozen times to it so naturally
he don't show us much. George seems to
be putting up fine and I am pleased
to say that I hope to see you be
with you. Sorry to hear that it is

affected her sight slightly, but nevertheless
it is one great consolation to know
that he is safe in Blythe again. I
am glad you send him one of those little
poultices seems to have been done
out of most his stuff of course his
illness has allowed someone to take
advantage of him. I have had it tried
on O. D. & he has no effect on me. I
have the same opinion as George that
there is some ailment in the British
army. I also received a letter from
John last night & he says that to
say they are well pretty well. That
seems to have stopped in the daylight
instructor what I guess that will keep
some of the little devils out of mischief.
What job is Will W. Cullum at now
at St. Albans. So they have finished old
Parrish's son at least then it is about
time too. I would like to have him
and help with me. I could find
him a job in a communication base
with a few bulletins wherever a boy
has a job. Forty I should think

notice of her arrest of ~~Convent~~ ~~to~~
to her Grandmother & Grandfather
keeping well, I'll have to ~~write~~
another line as soon as possible. By
the way did you ever receive that letter
I sent you of one of my tante's
some time back I heard that one of
that girl that you had known used to
be at W. Dodge's army cook house at
Sunset I sent it in a green en-
velope, I should like to know if you
got it. How are your parents
getting on. Well I am enclosing
you some for George if you would for-
ward them on to his please.
Well Dear Mum & Dad I think this
is all for the present so I will conclude
hoping this will find you all quite
well & happy with fatted calves
to all. I
Still remain
Your ever loving son
Albert

Same
address

Dear Mum & Dad,

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter of last night. I am very sorry to hear about poor George, but hope you will soon get some good news of him.

I hear from one of my chums that it nearly always makes them temporarily insane, this malaria. This chap has a brother who has had it and he says he will soon be alright again. George may be on the way to dear old Blighty now, one never knows.

Yes the old Kaiser [?] get some peace terms, what does he think we are, not the peace at any price type, oh no, peace with honour and nothing else. What do you mean by saying you wish we had a good fire to warm us up, we're not scouts for nothing, at the time of writing, I am burning my knees at the side of a big fire, so don't please worry about that. We are just as happy as sandboys, what with plenty of rations and a clean change once a week, the British Army is doing wonderful. Didn't you get my last letter in which I said I had seen Len Walker on the 7th Jan, perhaps you received it after you had wrote yours. Ted's getting along alright then I'm pleased to hear it, hows Sid getting on at Austins, alright I expect. Cyril is picking up too I hear, if he gets a few[?] he'll put on more weight. Daresay Gladys keeps on about me doesn't she, bless her little heart. So you have been enlarging the Franklin estates then, well I hope you get some good crops off it, I'll perhaps be home to dig some spuds for you, I think I can safely say that. Well I am alright, Tre bon in French, sometimes if you were to see us, you wouldn't think there's a war on. Poor old Percy Ludlow, he's had a good time of [?] them out and now he'll perhaps get the chance of knocking them out. Well I think this is all at present so hoping this will find you all in the best of health and happiness with fondest love to all at home.

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Son

Albert

No 7060 Scout Section Hdqr's. Coy
1/4th Batt Duke of Wellington's
West Riding Regiment
B.E.F. France

Feb/March 1917

Dear Mum & Dad

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter of last night. I am very sorry to hear about poor George, but hope you will soon get some good news of him. I hear from one of my chums that it nearly always makes them temporarily insane, this malaria, this chap had a brother who has had it and he says he will soon be all right again. George may be on the way to dear old B. right now, one never knows. Yes the old Kaiser a get some peace terms what does he think we are, not the peace at any price type, oh no, peace with honour and nothing else. What do mean by saying you wish we had a good fire to warm us up, we're not scouts for nothing, at the time

of writing, I am burning my lines at
the side of a big fire, so don't please
worry about that. We are just as
happy as sandboys, what with plenty
of rations and a clean change once
a week, the British army is doing
wonderful. Didn't you get my last
letter in which I said I had seen
Sen Waddel on the 7th Jan, perhaps
you received it after you had wrote
yours. I'd a good thing alright then
I'm pleased to hear it, how's kid
getting on at eductin's, alright I
expect. Gypil is pickin' up too I hear,
if he gets a few grinders he'll put on
more weight. Darsney Gludys keeps
on about me doesn't she, bless her
little head. So you have been endur-
ing the Franklin estates then,
Well I hope you get some good crops
off it, I'll perhaps be home to dig

to dig some spuds for you, I think
I can safely say that. Well I am
alright, I'd love in French, sometimes
if you were to see us, you wouldn't
think there's a war on. Poor old
Percy Ludlow, he's had a good
time of jacking them out and
now he'll perhaps get the chance
of knocking them out. Well I think
this is all at present so hoping that
will find you out in the best of
health and happiness with fondest
love to all at home.

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Son
Albert

No 7060 Second Section Hayes Coy
The 3rd Duke of Wellington's
West Riding Regt
B.E.F. France

France 10/4/17

Dear Mum & Dad

I daresay you are all getting rather anxious about me as I haven't written for some time, but I am in the pink of perfection. I have been rather busy just lately, just at present I am away from the Batt for a short time on the Brigade, so of course it is no use changing my address, as I don't know quite how long I shall be away and of course I have to wait until I can find time to walk to the Batt to get my letters, so I hope you will excuse me being so long winded in answering.

I have just received the Gazette, I always manage to get that safely. Well as you see by the papers we keep having a bite at old Fritze's line, I guess we are making him think. I hope you are all keeping well these days, daresay George will soon be coming home now for his sick leave, won't he. I think it will cheer him up a bit to get home.

The weather here is rather changeable just at present, one minute it is almost like summer and the next it is snowing hard. How is Dad progressing with his new job, I'll bet they are a sure handful. By the way there's a chap in our section named Boatright who came from the Herts with me to this Batt, and he has a brother with Ted at Liscard, you might ask him if he knows him, if you will please. Well I think this is all I can stop for at present so I will conclude, with the hope of being with you again, before many weeks are out, hoping this will find you all in the very best of health with my fondest love for all.

I Remain Your Ever Loving Son Albert

P.S. Same address.

10th April 1917.

France 10/4/17

Dear Mum & Dad

I daresay you are getting rather anxious about me as I haven't written for some time, but I am in the pink of perfection, I have been rather busy just lately, just at present I am away from the Batt for a short time on the Brigade, so of course it is no use me changing my address, as I don't know quite how long I shall be away and of course I have to wait until I can find time to walk to the Batt to get my letters, so I hope you will excuse me being so long wended in answering. I have just received the Gazette, I always manage to get that safely. Well as you see by the paper we keep having a shot at old Fitz's line, I guess we are making him think. I hope you are all keeping well these

days, daresay George will soon be
coming home now for his suit &
leave, won't he. I think it will
cheer him up a bit to get home.
The weather here is rather changeable
just at present, one minute it is
almost like summer and the next
it is snowing hard. How is Dad
progressing with his new job, I'll
bet they are a real handful. By the
way there's a chap in our section
named Boatright who comes from
the States with me to this Bar,
and he has a brother with Ted
at Liscaud, you might ask him if
he knows him, if you will please.
Well I think that is all I can stop
for at present so I will conclude
with the hope of being with you
again before many weeks are past
hoping that will find you all in
the very best of health with my
fondest love for all.

P.S.
Same
address

I Remain
Your Ever Loving Son
Alfred

Dear Mum & Dad

At last I am able to answer your most welcome letter. It was the best news I have received lately, to hear that George had arrived in Blighty and more so to receive a letter from him personally. I was impressed at that. It proves one thing, that he is getting on alright. I hope I shall soon be home with him, that's if this job is finished, I want to be in the thick of it till the finish. George appears to have it still on his mind, that he isn't doing [his] bit, of course it is the fever that causes it. He also has old Parsons or somebody else weighed up alright I think, don't you. Hope he will soon get home for you to see him. Ted is doing well too, to get a stripe isn't he, shows that he is improving, and taking an interest in it. I have been offered the chance of promotion, times out of number, but I have refused for this reason that I am getting on first class with the scouts at Hqrs, it's like this, I am always sure of a few hours sleep at night, more often or not a full night, and that I consider is the main thing out here. At present it's pretty decent weather here, a lot warmer, but the thaw has left the trenches an awful mess, nearly up to your neck, in fact some of our chaps have to leave their boots, jack-boots, in the slush and walk along bare foot to get out. Will you please send me a few of those photos on that I had taken with Ted, as I have some mates who keep asking for one of me, and I have the photos of several now. I am sending you the photo of my other half, Lil will know who it is.

Well I'm sorry I can't stop for more now, will write again soon so hoping this will find you quite well all of you with the very best love I Remain Your Ever Loving Son Albert.

April/May 1917

Dear Mum & Dad

At last I am able to answer your most welcome letter. It was the best news I have received lately, to hear that George had arrived in Blighty and made so to receive a letter from him personally. I was surprised at that. It proves one thing that he is getting on alright. I hope I shall soon be home with him, that is if this job is finished, I want to be in the thick of it till the finish. George ~~appears to be~~ it is all his mind, that he isn't doing but, of course it is the fever that causes it. He also has old Parsons or somebody else weighed up alright I think, don't you. Hope he will soon get home for you to see him. Ted is doing well too, to get a stripe isn't he, shows that he is improving, and taking an interest in it. I have been offered the chance of promotion, times out of ~~my~~ number, but I

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and that I consider is the main
thing and hell. As present its pretty
decent weather hell, a lot warmer,
but the snow has left the benches
in awful mess, nearly up to your
neck, in fact some of our chaps
have to leave their boots, gaiters,
in the slush and walk along
bare feet to get out. Will you please
send me a few of those photos or that
I had taken with Ted, as I have some
mates who keep asking for one of me
and I have the photos of several now.
I am sending you the photo of my other
half, Lil will know who it is. Well
I'm sorry I cant stop for more now will
write again soon so hoping this will
find you quite well all of you with the
very best love. I remain your ever loving son
Arthur.

France May 1st 17

Dear Mum & Dad

Many thanks for most welcome letter received safely last night and thanks very much for parcel which I have no doubt is on the way. It is really too kind of you as I know very well just how things are in Blighty, but still I know very well I might as well shut up. Very pleased to hear you have got over your [jog-trot] at home, but sorry to hear Mother has got another cold, she is always in the wars, poor old Mum, I hope she will soon get rid of it. Also pleased to hear George is progressing well, it will liven him up a lot to be with you again after such a long time away, hope he gets his ticket. I only wish I were on my way home, not that I'm homesick or anything like that. I want to help put the finishing on old Fritz now. He fancies he is having a game with us on the sea, but I'll bet he'll have different views on the western front, what say you. I somehow fancy picking a nice fat German pork butcher, with all due respect for the steel. Yes, I daresay you are pretty busy in the garden, oh yes, I shall be with you to dig them spuds.

Thank Mrs Roberts very much for the socks and chocolate seeing I am not there to do it. Kindly remember me to old Alf Jack, suppose he is still at Bagnall's. I received a letter from Will McCulloch last night, he is at Watford now he tells me on the munition job. Well I will enclose a few lines for George, no doubt he will be at home to read it. Hope he will be able to see Ted. By the way, how's he getting on, I can't remember the last time he wrote to me, I am always ready to answer any that he sends me, just buck him up if you will, please. I am still away from the Batt, but may be going back at any time.

Well I don't think I have any more to say this time so I will conclude, hoping this will find you all in the pink, as it leaves me with fondest love for all at home.

I Remain
Your Ever Loving Son
Albert

P.S. Same address
As usual.

1st May 1917

Dear Mum & Dad,
Francis May 17

Many thanks for most welcome letter received safely last night and thanks very much for parcel which I have no doubt is on the way. It is really too kind of you as I know very well just how things are in B lighty, but still I know very well I will as well shut up. Very pleased to hear you have got over your cough but sorry to hear Mother has got another cold she is always in the way, poor old man, I hope she will soon get rid of it. Also pleased to hear George is progressing well, it will give him up a lot to be with you again after such a long time away, hope to get his ticket. I only wish I were

on my way home, not that I'm
handicapped or anything, but that
I want to help put the finish
ing on old Fitz now. He fancied
he is having a game with us
on the sea but I'll bet he has
different views on the western
front, what say you. I some-
how fancy picking a nice fat
German pork butcher, with all
due respect for the steel. Yes I
dare say you are pretty busy in
the garden, oh yes I shall be
with you to dig them spuds.
Thank Mrs Roberts very much
for the socks and chocolate see-
ing I am not here to do it.
Kindly remember me to old
elf Jack, suppose he is still
at Bagnall. I received a
letter from Will Mc Cullough
last night, he is at Watford

now he tells me on the munition
job.. Well I will enclose a few
lines for George, no doubt he
will be at home to read it.
Hope he will be able to see Ted.
By the way hows he getting on,
I can't remember the last time
he wrote to me, I am always
ready to answer any that he
sends me, just buck him up
if you will please. I am still
away from the Batt, but may
be going back at any time.
Well I don't think I have any
thing else to say this time so
I will conclude hoping this will
find you all in the best as it
leaves me with fondest love
for all at home.

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Son

As same address

Albert J

France May 1st 17

My Dear George,

Many thanks for your most welcome letter received safely from home. Very pleased indeed to hear that you are getting so well and that you will soon be home once more. So you are calling to see Ted on your way, well I hope you will find him in the pink, poor little chap will be pleased to see you once more. Yes I am still away from Batt, as you say the news is a bit startling at times, old Fritz fancies he is pulling our legs a bit, but no [compre].

Very pleased to hear that you are getting a little of the don't care a damn spirit in you, it's always the best motto. I will put one or two in for you, if Fritz will give me a chance, but he's a bit of a devil for running away you know. Well I hope you have a jolly good time at home, I must apologize for being absent but still lets hope it won't be long now, I don't see how it can last much longer. We shall soon be able to say, "When we have wound up the watch on the [Rhine] etc". Oh, I have had a letter from old Bill W. Mc Cullock, he is at Watford on the munitions now, no doubt you will see him whilst you are at home. Well, sorry I can't stop for more now, so hoping this will find you in the pink and having a jolly good time at No.1 with fondest love and best wishes for the future

I Remain Sincerely Your Ever Loving Brother
Albert

1st May 1917

France May 1st 17

My Dear George

Many thanks for your most welcome letters received safely from home. Very pleased indeed to hear that you are getting so well and that you will soon be home once more. So you are calling to see Ted on your way, well I hope you will find him in the pink. Your little chap will be pleased to see you once more. Yes I am still away from Bath. As you say the news is a bit startling at times. old Fitz's fancies be it pulling our leg a bit, but no con. fide. Very pleased to hear you are getting a little of the don't care a damn spirit in you, it's always the best motto. I will put one or two in for you, if Fitz will give me the chance,

but he's a bit of a devil for run-
ning away you know. Well I hope
you had a jolly good time at
home. I must apologise for
being absent, but still lets
hope it won't be long now. I
don't see how it can last
much longer. We shall soon be
able to say, "When we have wound
up the watch on the Rhine etc.
Oh I have had a letter from old
Bill W. Mc. Cullock, he is at
Watford on the munitions now
no doubt you will see him
whilst you are at home. Well
sorry I can't stop for more now
so hoping this will find you
in the park and having a jolly
good time at No 1 with fondest
love I best wishes for the future.

I Remain Sincerely
Yours Ems Loving Brother
Albert

France May 3rd 17

Dear Mum & Dad

Just a line to let you know I received the parcel quite safely last night. Thanks very much indeed for it, it's awfully kind of you I must say to think of me so much. We are getting some grand weather now and no mistake. If it keeps like this I think we shall soon be getting old Fritz to the banks of the Rhine. Well I have much to say this time except I hope George is at home by the time you receive this. It is nearly time I went on duty so I will conclude now hoping this will find you in the pink with my fondest love to you all. Please thank Mrs R. very much for what she sent me if you will please.

I Still Remain

Your Ever Loving Son Albert

3rd May 1917

France May 3rd 17

Dear Mum & Dad

Just a line to let you know I received the parcel quite safely last night. I thank's very much indeed for it, it's awfully kind of you I must say to think of me so much. We are getting some grand weather now and no mistake. If it keeps like this I think we shall soon be getting old Fritz to the banks of the Rhine. Well I have much to say this time except I hope George is at home by the time you receive this. It's nearly time I went on duty so I will conclude now hoping this will find you in the pink with my fondest love to you all. Please thank Mrs R. very much for what she sent me if you will please

I still remain
Your Ever Loving Son
Albert

Somewhere in France
Sunday May 20th

My Dear Brother

Many thanks indeed for your most welcome letter & photo received safely last night. I should have wrote to you before this but as per usual rather busy. Well George I think your photo's very nice indeed. I don't think it looks as though army life has done you any harm, in fact you look better for it I consider, judging by the photo of course. John [Thernham?] looks well too, I don't think he has altered so much, do you, at any rate, he still looks a [Thernham?].

Very pleased you are safely at home once more, I wish I were there with you, but still we have a few more spots to knock off young Hermenstein yet, of course he's been beaten some time, we are now carrying on with the exterminating part of the business. Well I am as fit as a fiddle and as happy as a Sandboy, I don't care if it snows, hails or what the hell it does. I am still your's truly.

Very pleased to hear you saw Alice & Ada Carter, kindly remember me to Alice, shall be writing to Ada shortly. Oh so Sid Pedley is home again is he, well you know the old saying don't you. Thanks very much for offering to send me a parcel, I don't wish it you know, I keep telling Mum about it as well, but I might as well shut up, for you won't take any notice. Pleased to hear you have written to the old skirt. I say all the old folks seem to me to be snuffing it around our way don't they, you will have to recommend them to take out a new lease of life or else there will be nobody left when I get home. Very sorry to hear of Grandmother's accident, hope she will soon get out of it, I'm sure it must have shook her up a lot, kindly remember me to them if you get round Bennetts End at all.

...

20th May 1917 Part

Somewhere in France
Sunday May 20th

My Dear Brother

Many thanks indeed for your most welcome letter & photo received safely last night. I should have wrote to you before this but as per usual rather busy. Well George I think your photo's very nice indeed, I don't think it looks as though any life as done you any harm, in fact you look better for it I consider, judging by the photo of course. John Thurburn looks well too, I don't think he has altered so much, do you, and any rate he still looks a Thurburn. Very pleased you are safely at home once more, I wish I were there with you, but still we have a few more spots to knock off young Hermanstein yet, of course he's been beaten some time, we are now carrying on with the exterminating part of the business.

Well I am as fit as a fiddle and
as happy as a sandboy, I don't care
if it snows, hails or what the hell
it does, I am still yours truly.

Very pleased to hear you saw Alice
& Ade's letter, kindly remember me
to Alice, shall be writing to Ade
shortly. Oh so did Paddy & home &
gain is so, well you know the old say-
ing don't you. Thanks very much
for offering to send me a parcel I
don't wish you know, I keep telling
men about it as well, but I might
as well shut up, for you won't take
any notice. Pleased to hear you have
written to the old shirt. I say all
the old folks seems to me to be
~~suffering it would not any do~~
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them to take out a new lease of
life or else there will be nobody left
when I get home. Very sorry to hear
of Grandmother's accident, hope she
will soon get over it, I'm sure it
must have shook her up a lot, kin-
dly remember me to them if you
get round Bennett's End at all.

France June 14th

Dear Mum & Dad

I daresay you will wonder what has become of me not writing for such a time, but still you must think I have forgotten you, but it is not so, I may be long-winded in writing, but you can take it from me, I shall never forget you, my thoughts are forever with you, where ever I may be. Any chap out here, I don't care who he is or what he is, whatever he may be doing, he only thinks of one thing and that is home and the loved ones left behind. Well I am still in the pink and going strong like Johnny Walkers, although I was not born in 1870. As I no doubt you know we are still knocking spots off old Fritz the old devil. No matter what scientific things he builds, it makes no difference, what we want we have, we just simply send him an order to quit, in the shape of a few shells and then we give him a little physical drill arms upward stretch etc, and then quick march, sometimes of course he doesn't reach his destination, but there, that's his fault. Oh, I bet old Hindenburg's statue is having some nails drove into it, or may be vice-versa.

Well it is two years today since I took on this contract, I am getting to what is called a soldier now I think.

I hope George had a nice time at Brighton, it will do him the world of good, sorry I couldn't accompany him, but owing to pressure of business I must apologize for being absent. Oh by the way I must tell you I suddenly dropped across a few of the Stafford lads that were at Hempstead, it happened like this we happened to be showing one another's collection of birds photos you know, I recognized some of theirs and they did vice-versa with mine. Of course they had a few aliases [liasons?] whilst in H.H. What photos they had were some of the pink of Hempstead buds, Miss Stringer over the road for example. It is surprising what turns up. Have you still some of them other chaps billeted with you, guess Lil's well away, but there I won't tease her to much. Turning towards war time occupations how is the spuds, I shall soon be digging them and do the hens still lay. Hows Len, Charley, Harold, Gladys and the others getting on. Sid I expect is still at W.J's. isn't he. How's Aunt Sarah, kindly remember me to them if you will please. Mrs Lane I expect still does the old sentry, you might remember me to her too, just for the sake of argument, it will perhaps give someone else a rest. By the way I sent a letter to Alf [Tack?] some time ago, you might ask him if he got it alright. I am writing to Aunt Julia after this. Oh and how's Ted, just buck him up again, I bet he's scrounging round some tart. Well I don't think I have any more to say just now so I will wind up hoping this will find you all quite well and free from such things as jog-trog etc with fondest love for you and all at home Hope Mother's cough is better.

I Still Remain
Your Ever Loving Son
Albert

14th June 1917.

France June 14th

Dear Mum & Dad

I dare say you will wonder what has become of me not writing for such a time, but still you mustn't think I have forgotten you, but it is not so, I may be long winded in writing, but you can take it from me, I shall never forget you, my thoughts are for ever with you, where ever I may be. Any chap out here I don't care who he is or what he is, whatever he may be doing, he only thinks of one thing and that is home and he ~~he~~ ~~could~~ ~~not~~ ~~be~~ ~~left~~ ~~behind~~. Well I am still in the pink and going strong like Johnny Walker, although I was not born in 1870. As I no doubt you know we are still knocking spots off old Fritz the old derid. No matter ^{what} scientific things he builds, it makes no difference, what we want we have, we just simply send him an order to quit, in the shape of a few shells and then we give him a little physical drill arms upward stretch etc and then quick march, sometimes of course he doesn't reach his destination, but that's his fault. Oh I bet old Hindenburg's statue is having

some nails drove into it, or may be vice-versa. Well it is just two years to day since I took on this contract, I am getting to what is called a soldier now I think. I hope George had a nice time at Brighton, it will do him the world of good, sorry I couldn't accompany him, but owing to presence of business I must apologize for being absent. Oh by the way I must tell you I suddenly dropped across a few of the Stafford Birds that were at Hempstead, it happened like this we happened to be showing one another's collection of birds photos. You know, I recognized some of theirs and they did vice-versa with mine. Of course they had a few aliases whilst at D.H. What photos they had were of some of the pick of ~~deserted~~ birds, Miss Stinger over the road for example. It is surprising what turns up. Have you still some of them other chaps belleted with you, guess Lil's well away, but there I won't tease her to much. I mean towards was time occupations how is the Osprey, I shall soon be digging them and do the hens still ^{edge}. Hows Len, Charley
♦♦♦♦♦

Harold, Gladys and the others getting on. Sid
I expect is still at W J's isn't he. How's
Grandmother & Grandfather getting on and
Aunt Sarah, kindly remember me to them
if you will please. Mrs. Lane I expect still
does the old sewing, you might remember
me to her too, just for the sake of argument,
it will perhaps give somebody else a lead.
By the way I sent a letter to Alf Tark some
time ago, you might ask him if he got it
alright. I am writing to Aunt Julia after
this. Oh and how's Ted just back here up
again. I'll bet he's screaming round some
part. Well I don't think I have any more
to say just now so I will wind up
hoping this will find you all quite well
and free from such things as gag-trog
etc with fondest love for you and all
home. Hope Mother's cough is better.

I Still Remain

Your Ever Loving Son

Albert



France June 23rd

Dear Mum & Dad

Many thanks for your most welcome letter of last night. Oh it is quite alright I know very well how you are placed as regards writing letters. Very pleased to hear you were all quite well at home at the time of your writing and hope you will keep so, personally I am in the pink, still stick to the old motto you know, keep b--- on, as far as keeping cheerful goes, well we can generally manage that as we have a few nuts in our section, I always look on the bright side of the job whatever we have to do, as it is always the best in the end. Conditions have improved a lot and still keep improving as time goes on. As regards Fritz, well I wonder what he thinks of that [rise?] he got, guess he had to weigh on his chin strap and hang on to his false teeth. As you say the two Bills ought to have been in that lot, but still they have not lost the chance, have they. Yes it seems hard to think that they can't let the poor little kiddies alone, doesn't it. But still we keep rubbing it into them, they know their number's up and of course they will do what damage they can.

Lil told me Fred Hoar had been home. So they have been thinning out some more of them, from round Hempstead way. How about our Sid. Pleased to hear the garden stuff is looking well, so you are having it hot too, well if it gets much hotter there will only be a grease spot and an identification disc, to mark my existence.

Well of course we can't expect George to be quite himself again just yet after what he has been through. So he is expecting to get a job at the post office then, well I hope he does and hope it will be a decent job too.

Sorry to hear about ould Killeen, well I don't know they all seem to be going home round our way lately, don't they. Pleased to hear Grandmother & Grandfather are all keeping well, I wrote to Aunt Julia a few days ago. Thanks very much for parcel that I expect is on the way now, but I wish you wouldn't do it, as I know just how things are, and we get plenty of rations, but there you will take no notice, I will keep a look out for it.

Well I must wind up now hoping this will find Mum & Dad and all at home in the very best of health with fondest love to all

I Remain Your Ever Loving Son Albert

23rd June 1917

France June 23rd

Dear Mum & Dad/

Many thanks for your most welcome letter of last night. As it is quite alright I know very well how you are placed so regards writing letters. Very pleased to hear you were all quite well at home at the time of your writing and hope you will keep so, personally I am in the front, still stuck to the old motto you know, keep it - on, as far as keeping cheerful goes, well we can generally manage that as we have a few hats in our section, I always look on the bright side of the job whatever we have to do, as it is always the best in the end. Conditions have improved a lot and still keep improving as time goes on. As regards fish, well I wonder

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course we can't expect George to be quite himself again just yet after what he has been through. So he is expecting to get a job at the post office. He well I hope he does and hope it will be a decent job too. Sorry to hear about poor old Killeen, well I don't know they all seem to be going home soon and away lately, don't they? I pleased to hear Grandmother & Grandfather are keeping well, I wrote to Aunt Julia a few days ago. I thank very much for parcel that I expect is on the way now but I wish you wouldn't do it as I know just how things are, and we get plenty of ration, but there you will take no notice, I will keep a look out for it. Well I must wind up now hoping this well, ^{and} Mum & Dad and all and I am in the best of health with fondest love to all
I Remain Your Ever Loving Son Albert.

France July 7th [1917]

Dear Grandfather & Grandmother

Many thanks for your most welcome letter dated July 2nd. Hope this will find you both quite well as it leaves me at present. It is quite alright Grandfather I know very well how you are placed as regards writing letters, I think it is wonderful that you manage to do what you do at your age. So sorry to hear that you are queer again and hope you will soon be alright again. Also hope Grandmother has got over her accident alright, I am sure it must have shook her up terribly.

So you are having some stormy weather in England then, here it is lovely weather just at present, but I think if it gets much hotter there will only be an identification disc to mark my existence. I haven't heard from home for a few days but I am expecting one any day now. So Sid has got his papers then, well I hope the job will be over before he does much training, I don't want to see him come out here.

Hope Ted has got home by now, I can't seem to get a letter from him somehow. Ah (?), what George wants is rest.

So you have a few bees then and poultry (?) too. Well I hope you do alright with them, there seems to be plenty out this way, also fruit in what was once flourishing gardens. Well as you say we keep levering (?) Fritz, sometimes he goes up and others vice versa. He has his bud nipped on the western front at any rate. Seems a pity that he can't let poor little school kids alone, they want to send some of them big pots (?) out here, that say we shouldn't have reprisals on Germany, then perhaps their song would have a different tune.

I guess Foster is finding plenty to do just now, kindly remember me to him, also to anyone else that may enquire of my whereabouts.

How are things looking at the Chalet, and what about sanitary arrangements, do they still make a moat of it!

I expect young Sid is on the khaki job now isn't he, besides Horace & Leslie. Well I expect it will not be so long now before I cross the herring pond on my way home. Still a few more to go before me though it is my eleventh month now.

Guess Dad finds plenty to do, what with his capacity of instructor (?) to the corporation and one thing or another.

Just lately we have had a warm time of it in more ways than one, but still we keep smiling. Well I think I must conclude now as it is almost the blind man's holiday, so trusting this will find all well with you with my best respects hoping to see you soon

I remain

Your Ever Loving Grandson,

Albert

Note my new number; 203461 Scout Section Hdqrs Coy 1/4 Batt Duke of Wellingtons
West Riding Regt B.E.F. France

7th July 1917

France July 7th

Dear Grandfather & Grandmother

Many thanks

for your most welcome letter dated July 2nd.
Hope this will find you both quite well
as it leaves me at present. It is quite
alright Grandfather I know very well how
you are placed as regards writing letters,
I think it is wonderful that ^{you} manage
to do what you do at your age. So sorry
to hear that you are ^{quitting} again and
hope you will soon be alright again also
hope Grandmother has got over her ac-
cident alright, I am sure it must have
shook her up terribly. So you are having
^{stunning} some weather in England then, haven't it
lovely weather just at present, but I
think if it gets much hotter there
will only ^{be} an identification, else to
maintain my existence. I haven't heard
from home for a few days but I

P.T.O.

am expecting one any day now. So
Sid has got his papers then, well I
hope the job will be over before he does
much tedium, I don't want to see
him come out here. Hope Ted has got
on home by now, I can't seem to
get a letter from him somehow. Ah,
what George wants is rest. So you
have a few bees then and Fawkes too.
well I hope you do alright with them,
there's seems to be plenty on. This
way, also fruit in what was once
flourishing gardens. Well as you say
we keep having Fritz, sometimes
he goes up and others vice versa.
He has his bad nipped on the
western front at any rate. Seems
a pity that he can't let poor little
school kids alone, they want to
send some of them long pots out.
Sure, that say we shouldn't have
reprisals on Germany, then perhaps

their song would have a different
time. I guess Fortis is finding plenty
to do, just now, hardly remember
to be, alas to anyone else that
may inquire of my whereabouts. How
are things looking at the Chalk, and
what about sanitary arrangements,
do they still make a moat of it!
I expect young Sid is on the Chalk
you now visit the Ladies House there.
Well I expect it will not be so long
now before I cross the heaving pond
on my way home, still a few more
to go before me though, it is my
eleventh month now. I guess Dad
finds plenty to do, what with his
capacity of instructor to the corporation
and one thing and another. Just
lately we have had a warm time of
it in more ways than one, but

P.T.O

still we keep smiling. Well I think
I must conclude now as it is
almost the blind man's holiday,
so trusting this will find all well

Note my new number; 203461 Scout Section
Hedge Coy 1/4 Battr Duke of Wellington
West Riding Regd. B.E.F. France

with you with my best respects
hoping to see you soon.

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Egephalson

Albert

France July 19th

Dear George,

Thanks so much for your most welcome letter received last night. Pleased to hear you are keeping well. I am A1 thanks, in French "Tre Bon". Also pleased to hear Mother & Dad and all rest were quite well at the time of your writing and hope they will keep so. Yes of course that drawback you were referring too seems a lot, but take it from me, it is nothing to worry about. Pity Ted could not get an extension so as to see Uncle Will, but still never mind. Oh thanks so much for your kindness to me, but really I am doing great, but there you will take no notice, I hope before too long I shall be able to repay you all in some way or other for your kindness to me since I left home. Yes I shall be home soon now meanwhile stick to the old motto keep smiling. So they have caught that murderer then, quite a youngster in crime, this is the place for him. Well I really have not much time to spare so I hope you will excuse short scribble hoping this will find you all quite well with my very best love to all at home

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Brother

Albert

19th July 1917

France July 19th

Dear George / I thank so much for your most welcome letter received last night pleased to hear you are keeping well I am at thanks, in French (I'm ho!). Also pleased to hear mother & Dad and all rest were quite well at the time of your writing and hope they will keep so. Yes of course that drawback you were referring to seems a lot, but take it from me, it is nothing to worry about. City I'd could not get an extension so as to see Uncle Will, but still never mind. Oh thank so much for your kindness to me, but really I am doing great, but there you will take no notice. I hope before long I shall be able to repay you all in some way or other for your kindness to me since I left home. Yes I shall be home soon.

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that murderer then, quite a young
ster in crime. This is the place for
him. Well I really have not much
time to spare so I hope you will
excuse short scuddle hoping this will
find you all quite well with my
very best love to all ad hater
I remain

your ever loving Brother
Albert

France Sunday 29/7/17

Dear Mum & Dad

I will now take the opportunity to write to you once more whilst the business is slack, hoping this will find you all quite well as it leaves me absolutely in the pink. I still stick to the old motto you know, keeping [on], slow but sure, I am just getting interested in this little war game. From old Fritzie's calculations he thinks we have had enough, but it is not so and he'll find out to his sorrow, you would be surprised what an invigorating feeling the offensive spirit gives you, absolutely like a tonic or like a pint of beer to old Jack Redman, one taste and you want some more.

Well just to change the subject how are things going on up Chapel St., still the same I expect, the usual routine over the way I expect. All being well I shall soon be arousing curiosities up round that way. How are you all getting on, Sid's time will soon be up I expect, well one thing's sure he'll be alright, I don't want to see him come out here, there's not much fear of that though. Ted has not written yet, you might let me know his address if it is changed, I hope he will get on as well in the Navy as in the school. How is Dad getting on with that new job of his, alright I hope. Hope the spuds are doing well, we get plenty of them just now, in fact rations are A1 all round, so don't worry about me going short, if anybody tells you to the contrary, don't take any notice of them please. This place is simply ripping. Hope George is doing well and getting fit for when I come home. You might ask Lil if she has got someone to suit she knows what I mean, what she inquired about in her last letter.

I am still a very big person in the correspondance line, as you can guess, enquiries etc promptly attended to. Daresay Cyril and Gladys are getting quite massive by this time, do you think they'll know me when I come home, I am doubtful about it, as it is roughly twelve months since I last saw them. Aunt Julia writes very regular to me and is very kind too, although I don't expect her to be doing so much for me. I would have loved to have seen Uncle Will whilst he was with you, but still I must rest content until some distant date, I expect he will have gone back by now. Don't expect there's many of the male sex knocking about now is there. Do you see anything of old Jack Andrews now. Foster still writes occasionally to me.

Oh I have had my proficiency pay come through, of course I was entitled to it on the 14th June.

By the way, I saw some of the other half of the Herts draft that went to the York and Lancs Regt, yesterday, you can bet we did not know what to say to one another, we were so pleased to meet, as we havent met since last Sept. Well I must conclude now,

hoping this will find all of you quite well with fondest love to all at home and best wishes for the future.

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Son

Albert

29th July 1917

James Sunday 29/7/17

Dear Mum & Dad

I will now take the opportunity to write to you once more whilst the business is slack, hoping this will find all quite well as it leaves absolutely in the pink. I shall stick to the old motto you know, keeping busy or, slow but sure, I am just getting interested. The little was gone. I won't old Fifty's calculations be thinks we have had enough, but it is not so and let's find out to his sorrow, you would be surprised what an invigorating feeling the affer-see spirit gives you, absolutely like a tonic or like a pint of beer to old Cack Redman, one taste and you want some of more. Well just to change the subject how are things going on up Chapel St, still the same I expect, the usual routine over the way I expect. All being well

I shall soon be anxious curvatures up
round that way. How are you all
getting on. Dad's time will soon be
up I expect, well one thing's sure
that'll be alright. I don't want to see
him come down here, there's not much
fear of that though! Ted has not
written yet, you might not know
his address 'but is changed. I hope he
will get on as well in the town as
in the school. How's Dad going
on with that new job of his
alright I hope. Hope the spuds are
doing well, we get plenty of them
just now, in fact potatoes are #1
all round, so don't worry about
us going short, if anybody tells
you to the contrary, don't take any
notice of them please. This place
is simply ripping. Hope George
is doing well and getting fit
for when I come home. You might

Let if she has got someone to suit
she knows what I mean, what she in-
quired about in her last letter.
I am still a very busy person in the
correspondence line, (as you can guess, in-
quiries etc promptly attended to. Dere-
say G. Cyril and Judge are getting quite
nervous by this time, do you think
they'll know no when I come home
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roughly twelve months since I last
saw them. Aunt Julia writes very
regular to me and is very kind too,
although I don't expect her to be
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have loved to have seen Uncle Will
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other half of the Hunt's draft
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Regt, yesterday, you can bet we
had a d. d. d. d. to say to
one or other, we were so pleasant
to meet, as we haven't met
since last Sept. Well I must
conclude now hoping this will
find all of you quite well
with fondest love to all at home
and best wishes for future

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Son
Alfred

France 10/8/17

Dear Mum & Dad,

So sorry not to have answered your most welcome letter before this, but I am sure you will have some idea why I have been so long in answering it is the same old motto you know keep b- on.

So sorry too to hear of the illness you have had to contend with lately, poor little things. It must [?] be very worrying for Mum I'm sure as her work is enormous at normal times, let alone to have several of the younger ones laid up, hope this will find them much better again.

So George still is rather strange in his manner, well of course it can not be wondered at really considering the nature of his illness it will be a matter of time with him I expect. It will be best I think not to mention me too much when he is in doors, as I can guess by his letters to me that that he keeps worrying himself about me, but I am quite alright. Perhaps it will make it better for him now that he has a little something to occupy his mind. Thanks for old Sid's address, I am sending him a few lines tonight if possible. He is A4 then, slow training, well it will do him the world of good I think, there's a lot of difference of course between soldiering in Blighty and overseas. I don't at all think he will be wanted out here though, as I am expecting great things to happen during the next few months, nothing [?] hopes for the troops, during which time I should get my leave. Upon my word I have almost forgotten what Blighty looks like now, but there I guess I will find myself the way home though shortly.

Just now we are having rather a quiet time for a change, nothing like a change you know, it relieves some of the strain in watching Fritzie's and Hermonsteins. I have had a letter from Grandfather and I can hardly make it out what he means something about one of your (Dad's) cousins at Aldershot with the Colonials and he puts in his address, you might try and find out what he really means, if you will please. Well the weather is simply grand at present, like the place by the way and I see you are having it somewhat similar aren't you. Well I think this is all for the present, so hoping this will find you all quite well again now with fondest love to all and best wishes

I Remain
Your Ever Loving Brother

Albert

10th August 1917

France 10/8/17

Dear Mum & Dad

So sorry not to have answered your most welcome letter before this but I am sure you will have some idea why I have been so long in answering it, it the same old motto you know keep b-o-o. So sorry too to hear of the illness you have had to contend with lately, poor little things. It must make me very worrying for Mum I am sure as she will be nervous at several times, let alone to have several of the younger ones laid up, hope this will find them much better again. So George still is rather strange in his manner, well of course it can not be wondered at really considering the nature of his illness it will be a matter of time with him I expect. It will be best I think not to mention me too much

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make it better for him, now that
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his mind. Thanks for old Sid's
address, I am sending him a few lines
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the world of good I think. There's
a lot of difference of course between
soldiering in 'B light' and overseas. I
don't at all think he will be wanted
out here though, as I am expecting
great things to happen during the
next few months, nothing like
hopes for the troops, seeing which
time I should get my leave. Upon
my word I have almost forgotten
what 'B light' looks like now,
but then I guess I will find my
self the way home though shortly.

Just now we are having rather a
quiet time for a while, nothing
like a change you know, it relieves
one of the strain in watching Fiji
and Hermonsters. I have told a
letter from Grandfather and I can
hardly make it out what he means,
something about one of your (Dad's)
concerns at Alderston with the
colonials and to put in his
address you might try and find
out what he really means if you
will please. Well the weather is
simply grand at present, like the
place by the way and I see you
are having it somewhat similar
sent you. Well I think this is
all for the present so hoping this
will find you all quite well again
now with fondest love to all
and best wishes

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Son
Albert

France 14/8/17

Dear Ted,

You will no doubt think it very unkind of me, not to have answered your most welcome letter before this, but believe me, I had really forgotten about it, just came into my head, so I hope you will excuse me. Business is rather brisk just now, always plenty to do on active service, you know. I was so sorry to hear of your failure to get into the navy, but never mind Ted cheer up, it may turn out to be alright in the merchant service, at any rate I hope so for Mum's sake as well as yours. It will no doubt be something after the army style, as far as discipline goes, sometimes things go all serene, and at others just the opposite, but never mind just take a word of advice from me, if things do not agree with you just set your teeth like a man, if any body tries to take a rise out of you, well do the same to them, only with interest. It seems strange I was only saying a short time ago I hadn't had a letter from you for a long time and then blow me I go and forget I have had one. Sid will be just getting into khaki for now I expect, doing the two-step on the sands at Douvecourt, I expect he will get on alright, I hope so. Well Dad said in his last letter that they had had Cyril, Gladys and Harold down with measles, hope they are all better again now. Dear Ted I'm sorry but must conclude now, as it is getting dusk, will try and write a longer letter shortly, hoping this will find you quite well with fondest love to you, Goodbye and Good luck in the near future

I Remain
Your Ever Loving Brother

Albert

14th August 1917

Friday 14/8/17

Dear Ted

You will no doubt think it very unkind of me not to have answered your most welcome letter before this, but believe me I had really forgotten all about it, just came into my head, so I hope you will excuse me. Business is rather brisk just now, always plenty to do on active service, you know. I was so sorry to hear of your failing to get into the navy, but never mind Ted cheer up, it may turn out to be alright in the merchant service, at any rate I hope so for man's sake as well as yours. It will no doubt be something after the army style, as far as discipline goes, sometimes things go all wrong and at others just the opposite, but never mind just take a word of advice from me, if things do not agree

Teds'

with you just set your teeth like
a man, if any body tries to take
a rise out of you well do the
same to them only with interest.
It seems strange I was only say-
ing a short time ago I had had
a letter from you for a long time
and then black and I got and
forgot I have had one. Sid will
be just getting into khaki for
now I expect, doing the two-step
on the sands at Downland, I
expect he will get on alright
I hope so. Well Dad said in his
last letter that they had had
off Cyril, Gladys, and Alford down
with measles, I hope they are all
better again now. Dear Dad I'm
sorry but must conclude now as
it is getting dark, will try and
write a longer letter shortly, hoping
this will find you quite well with
fondest love to you. Goodbye & Good Luck
in the near future.
Yours Ever Loving Brother
Albert

France 22/8/17

Dear Sid,

Many thanks for your most welcome letter card & photograph received safely tonight. Very pleased to hear you are keeping well and hope you will keep so, I am doing well thanks, still keep [b?] on you know in the old style. You don't look bad at all in khaki, I think you look somewhat older than when I last saw you, [?] tall too. As you say, the army is not like dear old home, to true its not, but still stick it for all your worth old sport, it will do you good, the training it makes a man of any chap, at any rate I think so. Still I don't wish you to have to come out here, take my tip stick to Blighty as long as possible, this is no place for you, take my word for it. I would like my training days over again.

Daresay you have heard about the Herts, haven't you. That little chap in centre of photograph, I believe I know him, doesn't he come from H.H. and isn't his name Hall.

You look business like with mallets etc. guess you've been tent pegging. Yes I heard that George was working at the gasworks and that Ted was going to sea shortly. Pleased to hear that they were all keeping well at home the last letter I received, a few days ago. Hope you received my letter that I sent a little time ago. Well what sort of place is Dovercourt not bad I should think. I see you are under canvas, reminds me of Harrogate. One thing you can go to bed without thinking that perhaps say a 5.9 would burst just outside tent. The only trouble I had under canvas was the feathers off the bed would get into my eyes. You ask when I am going on leave, well sometime before the war is over. I shouldn't be so long now, any way, will try and get you home with me, all being well. Let's see it's over twelve months since I last saw you. Well I don't think I have time to stop for more now so hoping this will find you still keeping well and fit, with & best respect, wishing you every success in the near future

I Remain
Your Ever Loving Brother

Albert

22nd August 1917

France 22nd Aug

Dear Sid

Many thanks for your most welcome letter card & photograph received safely tonight. Very pleased to hear you are keeping well and hope you will keep so. I am doing well thanks, still keep to on you know in the old style. You don't look bad at all in black, I think you look somewhat older than when I

say the Army is not like dear old home to him it is not, but still stick it for ^{all} you worth old sport, it will do you good, the training it makes a man of any chap at any rate I think so. Still I don't wish you to have to come out here take my trip stick to B. light as long as possible, there is no place for you, take my word for it. I would like my training days over again. I am sorry you have heard about the

Huts, have't you. That little chap in
centre of photograph, I believe I know
him, don't he come from H. 21, and
isn't his name Hall. You look business
like with mallets etc, guess you've
been tent pegging. Yes I heard that
George was working at the gas works
and that Ted was going to sea short-
ly. Please to hear that they were
all keeping well at home the last
letter I received, a few days ago.
Hope you received my letter that I
sent a little time ago. Well what
sort of a place is Dover and not
bad I should think. I see you are
under canvas, reminds me of Harrogate
one thing you can go to bed with-
out thinking that perhaps say a
5.9 would be best just outside tent.
The only trouble I had under canvass
was the feathers off the bed
would get into my eyes. You ask
when I am going home or leave,

well sometime before the war is over,
I shouldn't be so long now any way,
will try and get you home will
be all long well lets see its
over twelve months since I last
saw you, Well I don't think I
have time to stop for more now so
hoping this will find you still
happy well and fit with love
I bid respect wishing you every
in the next future

I Remain

Your ever loving Brother
Albert J

France 18/9/17

Dear Mum & Dad,

I daresay you will think it is too bad of me to have kept you so long without a letter, but I am very sorry, it couldn't be helped for reasons that I can't explain to you.

I have just arrived back to the Batt. from that course that I was on. I found that large parcel awaiting me, but sorry to say a good deal of the contents were unfit to eat, especially as I know how you put yourselves out of the way to send things to me, but still thanks very much indeed. I suppose it is the fortunes of war, that I happened to be away when it came. When I first saw it I thought it must be a part of the happy home you were sending me. It is very kind of you indeed to think of me so much and I am very sorry that I was not able to get it as soon as it came.

Well I hope you are all keeping well as I am at present. Don't expect you have had any news of Ted again yet, have you. I hope he had a smooth passage. Sid seems to like army life alright, doesn't he, but all the same he has learnt that there's no place like home, the same as I did. I have wrote to Dad's cousin in the Australians and I got a very nice letter back in return, he said that he had put in for Hemel Hempstead and had spent a nice time with you.

Well as per usual I am [mucky?] in the old style, don't care much whether it rains, hails or snows. Guess you are beginning to think I am never coming home, but still cheer up, it's a long lane that has no turning. I shall be trotting home some time before long I expect.

Sorry to hear about the Herts, my old pal went west with a bullet in the chest, it is the chap that was billeted with me and Percy Dell at Thetford. Was it right about Ted Bilby. This job seems to be hanging about doesn't it, although most people are fed up with it I am sure we come out on top of Fritz, despite all his latest tricks, we can go one better every time. What he doesn't like is when he gets a dose of his own snuff. Well this is all I can stop for this time so hoping this will find you all still keeping well with fondest love for all,

I Remain
Your Ever Loving Son

Albert

18th September 1917

France. 18/9/17

Dear Mum & Dad

I daresay you will think it too bad of me to have kept you so long without a letter, but I am very sorry, it couldn't be helped for reasons that I can't explain to you. I have just arrived back to the Batt. from that course that I was on, I found that large parcel awaiting me, but sorry to say a good deal of the contents were unfit to eat especially as I know how you put yourselves out of the way to send things to me, but still that is very much indeed. I suppose is it the fortunes of war, that I happened to be away when it came. When I first saw it I thought it must be a part of the happy home that you were sending me. It is very kind of you indeed to think of me so much and I am very sorry that I was not able to get it as soon as it came.

Well I hope you are all keeping
well as I am at present. I'll
suppose you have had my news
of Ted again yet, have you, I hope
he had a smooth passage. Sid
seems to like my life alright,
doesn't he, but at the same he
has learned that there's no place like
home, the same as I did. I have
wrote to Dad's concern in the
Antarctica and I got a very
nice letter back in return, he
said that he had just been to
Hemel Hempstead and had
spent a nice time with you.
Well as for usual I am heading
on in the old style, don't care
much whether it rains, hails or
snows. Guess you are beginning
to think I am never coming
home, but still cheer up, it's a
long time that has no turning
shall be getting home some
time before long I expect.

Sory to hear about the Hunt,
my old pal went west with a
bullet in the chest, it is the
chap that was billeted with me
and Perry Dell at Tretford. Was
it right about Ted Bieby.

This job seems to be looking
about doesn't it, although most
people are fed up with it I
am sure. We come out on top of
Finty, despite all her latched
tricks, we can go one better
every time, what he don't like
it is when he gets a dose
of his own stuff. Well then
in all I can say for this time
so saying this will find you
all better keeping well with
favour love for all.

I Remain

Your true Loving Son
Albert

France Sept 22nd

My Dear George,

Many thanks for your most welcome letter received safely this morning. Very pleased to hear you are keeping well, I am still jogging along in the pink as per usual. Yes Mum had told me you were working at the gas works. Also pleased to hear you are getting on alright there, I have no doubt you are rather busy, now that men are so scarce. Sorry to hear that you have had a touch of ague, and hope you will soon be alright again. Yes I hear from Sid pretty frequently, but of course I don't hear from Ted yet, still I daresay you will soon be getting a line from him. So Sid Pedley still comes home on his weekend trips. I didn't know he was still wallowing in Blighty, was he unfit, chicken-hearted or what. Yes I heard from Dad's cousin and he told me that they had been to H.H. So old Bill's got the sack then, I thought that postcard he sent me was not so bad, kindly remember me to him when you see him and let me have his address [?] I daresay it will have altered. Don't blame you for not worrying about Alice Carter, if she is like that still, I should certainly let her find somebody else's company, as you say there's plenty more about.

No doubt you have not forgotten the first little lot yet. Well I don't suppose I shall be so long now before I get home, but of course I must wait my turn, although I'm not like Pedley, I think I have had pretty near enough for one dose, but still I can do it it's immaterial to me. I feel as fit as ever, and what's more I am confident. Old Fritz has learnt to respect Tommy Atkins, well we shall keep smacking at him until he throws up the sponge, his days of advance are ended as far as we are concerned, he'll learn how to retreat in a hurry yet. I see you have some of them at the Old House, I wish I were there superintending their work, they have to do it or else they would be getting a sceptic sore from the point of a bayonet. Well I had a nice time at the sniping school and done very well considering I am a novice at the game. Hope Mother & Dad and all the rest are doing well. Well I think I shall have to close now so hoping this will find you in perfect health, hoping to see you soon, with best love to you & all at home, best of health and luck in the future,

I Still Remain
Your Ever Loving Brother

Albert

22nd September 1917

France Sept 22nd

My Dear George / Many thanks for your most welcome letter received safely this morning. Very pleased to hear you are keeping well, I am still joggling along in the penk as per usual. Jo mum had told me you were working at the gas works. Also pleased to hear you are getting on alright there, I have no doubt you are rather busy now that I men are so scarce, sorry to hear that you have had a touch of ague and hope you will soon be alright again. Yes I hear from Sid pretty frequently, but of course I don't hear from Ted yet, still I daresay you will soon be getting a line from him. So Sid pretty still comes home on his weekend trips. I didn't know he was still wallowing in P. Lighty, how he unfit, chicken-

hearted or what. You I heard from
Dad's cousin and he told me
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now I daresay it will have alter-
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vance are ended as far as
we are concerned, hell learn
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yet. I see you have some of
them at the Old Horse, I wish
I were there superintending this
work, they have to do it or
else they would be getting a
scriptic sore from the point
of the bayonet. Well I had
a nice time at the Drury
School and done very well
considering I am a novice
at the game. Hope Mother.

I had and all the rest are
doing well. Well I think I
shall have to close now, so
hoping this will find you
in perfect health, hoping to
see you soon with best love
to you & all and love, best
of health and best in the
future.

I still remain

Your ever loving Brother
Albert



France 26/9/17

Dear Sid,

So sorry I haven't answered your most welcome letter before this, but having been away from the Batt for a short while on a course of sniping, it has put me out with my correspondence. Well I hope you are getting on well with your soldiering, still sticking it, doing plenty of square bashing etc, I am writing these few lines in great haste, as it is nearly lights out. Please to hear they are all pretty well at home at present, and hope you are the same. Well I hope to see you very soon now, I begin to wonder what Blighty looks like now, it seems ages since I were there last. Ted will have finished his little trip by now I expect. I hope he had a smooth passage.

Well you will excuse my short letter this time as I am in a great hurry, so with fondest love & best respects,

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Brother
Albert

26th September 1917

James 26/9/17
Dear Sid / So sorry I haven't
answered your most welcome
letter before this, but having
been away from the Barr for
a short while on a course of
surgery, it has put me out
with my correspondence. Well
I hope you are getting on
that well with your soldier-
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plenty of square probing etc. I
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to see you very soon now,
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Blyth looks like now,

It seems ages since I was there
last. Dad will have finished
his little trip by now. I expect
I hope he had a smooth passage.
Well you will excuse my
short letter this time as I
am in a great hurry, so with
fondest love & best respects,

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Brother
Alfred

—————

France 26/9/17

Dear Lil,

Many thanks for your most welcome letter received dated 16/9/17. It is quite alright Lil I know how busy you must be, what with one thing and another. Yes I did get the parcel, thanks very much, I sent a letter in acknowledgement of it a few days ago, I daresay you will have got that by this time, I expect so anyway. So you think I run more risk now than I did previously, I don't know why you think that, just because, well I suppose because I am a scout sniper and two or three more things, but I am quite alright, it all comes in the days' work. You know the scouts motto. See and not be seen.

Well I forgot to tell you whilst I was on that course, I went through a few stages of ju-jitsy, so look out for when I come home. You say you keep looking for me to come home, well I shan't be so long now, I don't expect, but I don't feel homesick at all, although of course I know very well which is the best place, too true I do. So Cyril is getting a little bit lively then, bless his little heart. I see you have had some lodgers too, like me in that respect, except they are of a slightly different variety.

Yes I have had several letters from Dads cousin, the one at Aldershot. Ah! I saw in the Gazette about them Fritzie's in my old show, I wish I were in charge of them, they would do the turkey trot up that old lawn, I'd make them wish they were at [Gods door?]. What do you think of them, don't you think they make fine targets. Well I think this is all I can stop for just now, so hoping this will find you and Mum & Dad and all at home quite well with fondest love to all at home and abroad hoping to see you soon. Bon-Swar.

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Brother
Albert (Chevalier)

26th September 1917

France 26/9/17

Dear Lil / Many thanks for your most welcome letter received dated 16/9/17. It is quite alright Lil I know how busy you must be, what with one thing and another. Yes I did get the parcel, thanks very much, I sent a letter in acknowledgement of it a few days ago, I daresay you will have got that by this time, I hoped so any way. So you think I am more rich now than I did previously, I don't ^{know} why you think that, just because, well I suppose because I am a scout leader and two or three more things, but I am quite alright, it all comes in the day's work. You know the Scots motto. See and not be seen.

Well I forgot to tell you whilst
I was on that course, I went
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them wish they were at Colo-
dam. What do you think of
them, don't you think they make
fine turkey. Well I think this
is all I can stop for just
now, so hoping this will find
you and that I had said
all at home quite well with
fondest love to all at home
and abroad hoping to see you
soon. Bon-Sour,

I Remain

Your Ever Loving Brother
Albert (Chevalier)

