

1<sup>st</sup> January 1917

**Letter from Bowden to Dunkley**

Q. M. Stores  
1<sup>st</sup> Res. Herts Regt  
Halton Camp  
Bucks

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines, hoping that you have spent a happy Christmas and to wish you a bright and prosperous New Year, hoping that it may be combined with the blessings of Peace. I hope that you will not laugh at my attempt at typewriting as you know that I am not a professional at this game. I am at present on trial as clerk in the Quartermaster Stores, which is a job after my own liking. I am very busy indeed and don't get much time to spare. I saw Capt W B Keen (*does he mean B A Keen?*) the other day & he told me that he was expecting to go to Egypt. He had not seen me since August 1914, but I had seen him several times myself and he didn't recognise me. I spent a very quiet Christmas & I might say a very busy one. I shall be pleased to have a line from you when ever convenient. I was very grieved to hear of the death of Mr Wilson, no doubt he must have suffered terribly. I had a letter from my brother Harold the other day and he seems to be getting on fairly well, but apparently he is having a rough time of it like the rest of the boys. I trust that your sons are both keeping well, and also yourself this rather trying weather. I have discovered that Quartermaster Sergt Arno, who keeps the Leather Bottle public house at Harpenden is here? What do you think of the news in the papers lately? There are several Harpenden young fellows, who have reported back from the Expeditionary Force here, C Tyler & W Broughall. Do you remember W.L.Field who used to be a bank clerk at the London & County Bank at Harpenden. He has also returned having been wounded in the knee & strange to relate, having been pals at Harpenden, he came in the stores to give us a hand during Christmastide.

Well I must bring these lines to a close as it is getting rather late, so once more I must apologize for the mistakes, and will close with best wishes for the New Year, hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain  
Yours very sincerely  
Athel H Bowden

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2<sup>nd</sup> January 1917

**James MacDonald**  
Nurseryman

Receipt for Floral Wreath 15/-

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**11<sup>th</sup> January 1917**

**Letter from Russell to Recruiting Officer (Watford)**

The Recruiting Officer  
Watford

Re Herbert Currant

No.

Sir

In regard to Herbert Currant, our Engineman and Second Ploughman I wish to ask if it would be possible to delay calling him up for a further period in order that we may complete our winter sowing and threshing, both of which have been delayed by bad weather. As he is the only man on the farm who can work the Engine as soon as he goes the possibility of finishing the winter sowing would become very remote. Is it necessary for me to appeal to the Tribunal?

Yours faithfully

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**15<sup>th</sup> January 1917**

**Letter from Bowden to Dunkley**

Q. M. Stores  
1<sup>st</sup> Res Herts Regt  
Halton Camp, Bucks

Dear Mr Dunkley

Thanks for letter received yesterday. I was very much surprised & deeply grieved to hear of the death of Dr Miller. When one looks back upon the last few months, they must see a vast change in the Laboratory Staff & the great losses which they have received. I refer to the losses incurred through the war viz: Lieuts Lewin & Martin & then of Mr Freeman & Mr Wilson two valued and respected servants & now finally Dr Miller

Trusting you are keeping in the health

I remain

Yours very sincerely

Athel H Bowden

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**16<sup>th</sup> January 1917**

**Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley**

H.M.F. Kings Lynn

My dear Dunkley

Ever so many thanks for being so good as to send me the papers. They will be very useful. I am exceedingly sorry to hear such sad news of Dr Miller. The loss to the Laboratory is inestimable. It is a great pity he has not lived to see the completion of the library. During the last two years it seemed to occupy most of his

time. I have no doubt he was very proud of it. Still another old Rothamsted man gone and with him many valuable recollections & reminiscences.

We are now to employ girls here to release all the men. The other day I had the pleasure!! Of interviewing 20 girls. It was amusing. It is very worrying to have to begin the training of work people all over again. It is useful experience no doubt but I fear we shall lose a good deal of cash for a few weeks. My two foremen I think I can keep, but I'm not yet sure even of these men who are undoubtedly skilled. There are six chemists here besides myself, and very soon we hope to work very efficiently.

I enclose 1/- for poor old Wilson's wreath.

I shall be glad of the information about sterilisation – our letters must have crossed – when you can find time. I have no doubt you still have plenty to do.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

A. Appleyard

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**19<sup>th</sup> January 1917**

**Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley**

H.M.F. K.L.

Dear Dunkley

Thank you very much indeed for the literature on Partial Sterilisation. It will be most useful. I intend to try some experiments down here. I am longing to find time to think about other things than acetone & butyl alcohol. I was interested to read about the funeral. Poor old chap – I wonder if he has enjoyed his life. I shall not soon forget his fill of tobacco given to me on a visit to Woburn.

With kind regards & many thanks

Sincerely yrs

A Appleyard

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**21<sup>st</sup> January 1917**

**Letter from Willie (W.C.) Game to Dunkley**

31775 Hut R 3

3<sup>rd</sup> Batt Beds Regt

6<sup>th</sup> Company

Landguard Camp

Felixstowe

Suffolk

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines to let you know I am still alive, and feeling about the same, still got rather a bad cold and just about got used to it. Well I hope you are keeping well, and I also hope Mr Grey is better, and also hope all are keeping well. I

was so sorry to hear the sad news of the death of Dr Miller, and I am sure he will be greatly missed.

Mother wrote and said Fred has to go, he will no doubt find this much harder than the work he is on, but still he will have to cheer up and do as I do, look on the bright side of things.

We have to work all day Saturdays and the order is from the War Office, that all chaps under nine weeks training are to work all day Saturdays. This Saturday we had a what they called a little route march, it was really a little one, but to me with full pack, it seemed like a great one, with also fifty rounds of ammunition.

Well I think this will be all this time as there seems to be not much news, so please remember me to all at Lab.

I remain  
Yours sincerely  
Willie Game

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**23<sup>rd</sup> January 1917**

**Letter from Russell to the Recruiting Officer, Watford**

The Recruiting Officer  
Watford

Sir,

Herewith I return the papers sent apparently in error to Mr A W Roberts who is reserved here for certain work by special arrangement between the Board of Agriculture and the War Office, which arrangement I am informed by the Board of Agriculture still holds.

Should you require it I can get you a definite statement from the Board to that effect.

Yours faithfully

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**26<sup>th</sup> January 1917**

**Letter from G Lawrence to Dunkley**

**Soldier's Christian Association**

2243 Pte G Lawrence  
1<sup>st</sup> Herts Regt  
17 T. B. D. 24 Section  
B.E.F.  
France

Dear Sir

Mr Dunkley at last I have 5 minutes to spare just to drop you a few lines to say that I am going strong at present hoping this will find you quite well. I managed

to land over alright again but it is bitter cold under canvas an also the winds are bitter. I hope all the people at the Lab are going strong also I hope that Dr Russell an his family are in better health than when I was on leave, will you kindly give them my kindest regards an if they are home I will drop them a line but it is no use to write if they are away. I have met quite a lot off the Harpenden boys out here so it makes one quite happy with a few lads you no. Well I must say how glad I am to be able to be out to do my bit again an I trust that we may soon all be able to join one another in our own Little homes but I suppose we have our duty to fullfill first. I have written Mr Grey an I hope he has received it alright tell him he must write soon as I may soon be going further on an I should like a line from Dear old home before I make a change from here. I hope Athel is still going strong at his job. Tell him that the Lads that have just left before him have just caught us up. My kindest regards to him also when you write. I will close trusting to have a line soon. Believe me to remain  
Yours sincerely

George

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**8<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

**Letter from H Currant to Russell**

**Y.M.C.A.**

B Company  
1<sup>st</sup> Res, Herts

Dear Sir

Just a line to say I am here at Tring & am in the 3/1<sup>st</sup> Herts Reg. I did not have chance to get in with the horses as I should liked to have done as I passed for general service but still I am getting on very fair. The sleeping in the huts is a bit rough but still one cant expect the comfort that one gets at home. I managed to get home for an hour or so on Sunday but I did not have time to go far away from home but as soon as I get a week end pass I will come down the Lab: The snow and frost round here on this open spot makes things look very cold.

I heard that the threshing was going on alright which I was very pleased to hear but I daresay these frosty mornings hinder the first thing. Well I will now draw a short letter to a close, hoping this finds you in the Best of health and thanking you for your kindness

I remain  
Your Obedient Servant  
Herbert Currant

Dr E. J. Russell

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**12<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

**Letter from Bowden to Dunkley**

Q. M. Stores  
1<sup>st</sup> Res Bn. Herts Regt  
Halton Camp, Bucks

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines in haste this evening hoping they will find you in the best of health this rather trying weather. I have not much news to inform you of this time. I'm still pretty busy as usual. Sergt A. .... Informed me that Herbert Currant from Rothamsted was here, & I happened to run across him the other day. It may please you to know that the following appeared in Battalion Orders the other day:- The Commanding Officer is pleased to make the following promotions:- Pte. Bowden A.H. (4107) to be Lance-Corporal. Please remember me to Ted, Arthur & Bertie etc. & give my best wishes hoping they are quite well.

Would you be so kind as to send me a copy of the Annual Report for 1916, if you have copies yet & oblige.

I was deeply grieved to hear of the death in action of Guy Westwood from Cravells Road, Harpenden.

My brother has been a bit queer lately having rather a rough time with night watches but I am pleased to say that he is better now.

Hoping to hear from you when convenient

I remain

Yours very sincerely

A. H. Bowden (L/Cpl)

P.S. Lieut Mathew(?) of Harpenden in Herts Regt recently went out to France also L/Cpl P. Anscombe. I don't think your brother Horace likes the army

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**13<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

**Letter from G Lawrence to Dr Russell**

22497 Rifleman G Lawrence  
B. Company  
9<sup>th</sup> Batt  
R.I.R.  
B.E.F.  
France

Sir

Dr Russell

I am writing a few lines hoping this finds all well an better than when I was last home on leave & was sorry to hear that some off the children was poorly. I hope all are well now an are going strong up to now, but I don't think I ever was in such bitter cold weather as I have experienced this last few weeks. We are out for a few

days rest which we have earned. I can assure you its trying work watching the bojches come over. I cannot keep my poor feet warm as they had such a nipping before an you dare not move. I have to wear two pairs off socks at a time but there is a difficulty off getting washing done. Its trying when you have been used to a good change. But I am thankfull to be doing my bit as you no I done a good deal off training in England an some was under before I came out so I thought it my duty to do my bit. Well Sir I was sorry I did not see you when I was home but I may soon be able to be back with you all again as I think things are going well. I trust most of us may be able to return to our respective occupations. I am sure you will rember me to all my friends an also Mrs Russell an the children trusting I may have a bit from you soon to cheer one up as a letter from home is company(?). I was sorry to hear the sad news off Dr Miller, also poor Wilson. Mr Grey was queer but I gather from Mr Dunkley he is better. I cannot write much but I sincerely hope all are going well at the Labb. So I will close this short letter trusting this finds you well an believe me to remain your Obedient Servant

Rifleman G Lawrence 22497

B. Company

9<sup>th</sup> Batt

R.I.R

B.E.F.

France

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**13<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

**Letter from W Buddin to Dunkley**

**Egypt**

My Dear Dunkley

There have been rumours of a move for some time past but we still seem almost as far off. This time the rumour does not apply to us only but to most of the troops down here so that if we do go we shall probably have very little to do as no one who could make use of us will know of our existence for months. I shall have to go to Cairo soon myself in any case as I shall be walking about as ragged as the natives.

Thanks very much for your letter. What cheerful news! I was very sorry to hear about Dr Miller's sudden death. I have had several cuttings sent out to me. Who is doing his work now. I expect they will want to keep up the continuity of the results(?). Richards is probably the only one available. I .... old Wilson's death was not quite so unexpected. Hope Ted Grey is better. All the old ones are dying off & we shall soon have no links with Lawes & Gilbert. You must persuade Russell to bring me home to make a special study of the details of the past before you all desert us. Your knowledge of the old days should soon be at a premium. I should think Mrs Dunkley will soon have to come down to the office to look after you. I notice

you are getting another giddy young thing to help you and leave the Miss Johnsons to EJR. We shall have to stipulate that all your assistants are over fifty instead of sweet seventeen. Glad George is still at Woolwich.

We have actually had some rain. It rained all day Sunday and there was another heavy shower during the night. They have had a good bit at Cairo & Alex. but ..... from here we had ..... it all until now. It was rather a nuisance as all the conservancy arrangements are designed for hot sunny weather. Shall keep a look out for .....

Congratulations on your promotion. Don't burst all the buttons on your tunic or it will be expensive. No wonder all the ladies are coming to work at the Lab.

Conditions are always right for fly breeding here & they take advantage of the least opportunity. They are not very bad in this camp now but I have met them when they were quite a plague. One gets used to them to a certain extent but if you are not feeling quite fit they are very worrying. A good many of my men have been on leave to Luxor for three days but I have not been able to get away yet. Have not heard from Prescott lately but I am looking forward to seeing him in Cairo.

Best wishes to all, Yours

Walter Buddin

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**Letter from 22497 Rifleman G Lawrence**

**13<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

22497 Rifleman G Lawrence

B. Comp.

9<sup>th</sup> Batt.

R. I. R. (Royal Irish Rifles)

B. E. F.

France

Sir

Dr Russell

I am writing a few lines hoping(?) this finds all well or better than when I was Last home on Leave I was sorry to hear that some of the children are poorly I hope all are well now I am going strong up to now but I don't think I was ever in such bitter cold weather as I have experienced this Last few weeks. We are out for a few days rest which we have earned. I can assure you its trying work watching the boches(?) come over I cannot keep my poor feet warm as they had such a nipping before an you dare not move I have to wear two pairs off socks at a time but there is a difficulty off getting washing done its trying when you have been used to a good change But I am thankfull to be doing my bit as you no I done a good deal of ..... in England an some was under before I came out so I thought it my duty



to do my bit Well Sir I was sorry I did not see you when I was home but I may soon be able to be back with you all again as I think things are going well. I trust most of us may be able to return to our respective occupations. I am sure you will remember me to all my friends as also Mrs Russell and the children. Trusting I may have a bit from you soon to cheer me up as a Letter from home is Company(?) I was sorry to hear the sad news of Dr Miller also poor Wilson Mr Grey was queer but I gather from Mr Dunkley he is better. I cannot write much but I sincerely hope all are going well at the Labb. So I will close this short letter trusting this finds you well and Believe me to remain your

Obedient Servant

Rifleman  
B. Company  
9<sup>th</sup> Batt.  
R. I. R.  
B. E. F.  
France

G Lawrence (22497)

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**14<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

**Letter from Bowden to Dunkley**

Q. M. Stores  
1<sup>st</sup> Res Herts Regt  
Halton Camp, Bucks

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines in haste in answer to your most welcome letter which I was so pleased to receive this morning. I am very sorry to have to inform you that some cases of Spotted Fever have broken out in the Camp, & I hear that two of the Royal Flying Corps have died with it. Of course you know that it is a very serious state of affairs & the Medical Staff have quite got the wind up, & quite right to, so there is a possibility of this camp being isolated. Many thanks for your congratulations (*on his being promoted to Lance Corporal?*). May I wish your son every success in his Army career. Many thanks for your kindness re the Annual Report, as you remark you will have a big job on, if you carry out as you suggest when the war is over. I trust that you are keeping in good health this rather trying weather. Well I don't think that I have any more news of any interest or importance to talk about this time, so I shall draw these few lines to a close, sincerely hoping that the time is not very far distant when I shall (D.V.) have the pleasure of resuming my duties at Rothamsted Laboratory

I remain  
Yours sincerely  
A. H. Bowden

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**Letter from G Lawrence to Dunkley**

**15<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

YMCA With the British  
Expeditionary Force

2243 Rifleman G Lawrence  
9<sup>th</sup> batt. B. Comp.  
R.I.R. (Royal Irish Rifles)  
B.E.F.

Dear Mr Dunkley

I was glad to receive your letter on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. It was a pleasure to have a line from Dear old Blighty. As you say about Standing this amount of frost, I think I never was so cold in my Life. But you must stand it but your poor feet are like broom sticks. You cannot walk when you try to. I am sure you will be Left quite alone soon if this ghastly game keeps on. The thing is I put on two pairs of Socks at a time but I don't know where to get any more that's for buying any there is nothing for that only 5 francs in 3 weeks and you must get a few cakes(?) to keep yourself together or a piece of chocolate. I have written Mr Grey again I am so glad he is better. Tell him to drop me a line. I was very sorry to hear about Dr Miller I trust I may get back again very soon but I can assure you there is something to be done. I am glad the children of Dr Russells are going strong. I guess the garden misses them Very much. I am also glad both your boys are doing well. I trust they may both be returned in safety to you again in a very short time as we all have had a good feeding off this game You will note I am attached to a Rifle Regt. So don't forget the address. I trust you will drop a Line when you have time. My best regards to all the Labb staff, and Believe me to remain

Your Obedient and sincere  
Friend G. Lawrence

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**20<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

**Letter from Game to Dunkley**

Herman de Stern Hospital  
Felixstowe  
Suffolk

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines hoping they will find you quite well.

I would have written before, only we have been rather busy on draft training, and now as you will see I am in hospital. I was put on a draft, and had a fortnights draft training, the day we were going we were examined again. I had had a very bad cold, and my throat was very bad, and was rejected with my throat. I do not think I shook the cold off me I had when I was home. I reported sick the next morning and was sent in hospital with Tonsillitis. I have been in here 13 days now

but I am pleased to say that I am getting on, and started to get about after 8 days in bed.

This hospital was built by a German and named after him when he died. It is a fine built place just by the sea (*after a fire it was demolished in 2005*).

I hope you are all keeping well at the Lab. I expect you are short-handed now with Fred having to go, and I expect you have plenty of work.

They are sending men out from here very quickly now, I expect ready for the big push.

Well I think this is all this time

I remain

Yours sincerely

W.C. Game

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**6<sup>th</sup> March 1917**

**Letter from W Buddin to Russell**

E.E.F.

My dear Dr Russell

Heartiest congratulations on F.R.S.

No time now. Will write later

Yours very sincerely

Walter Buddin

*There is a problem with the date of this letter as Russell's FRS was awarded on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917. So my transcription may be an error.*

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**6<sup>th</sup> April 1917**

**Letter from W Buddin to Russell**

E.E.F.

My Dear Dr Russell

I was very pleased to see Mr Hall's appointment. Rothamsted is very much to the fore just now.

Three days after getting back to Cairo I sought out Prescott at Bahtim. They are very happy & comfortable out there & he seems to be settling down well to the work now. They are the only English people within miles but it suits them both & they made a number of friends when living in town during the first month out here so they are able to spend an evening or two in town. Yesterday I was out with them to the Delta Barrage. It makes a very pleasant reminder of how far we and after being in the desert for 6 months I very much appreciate the change.

We were brought back here in the middle of March and my men are scattered over 10 different camps. Still left with much diminished numbers in the drying force. There is not very much for us to do at any of the camps & after I visited

them all I shall get very much fed up with the job. I have tried to get more work – not immediately so much, as I have been keeping quite busy, but the prospect of more work in the near future – but the Army which at all times has quite enough of the Egyptian “Never mind” spirit about it seems to have an up.... .... In this country. The junior authorities will not waken up the higher authorities to the fact that we are being wasted. We are here in case of an emergency & if there is no chance of that the .... will probably look at his returns one day and see that we have very little to do.

I have no hope of getting out of this country until well after the end of the war.

Are you publishing an Annual Report now? If so I should be very glad to have a copy for the last year or two.

Bertie Keen has had bad luck. On rejoining the 1<sup>st</sup> line he was supernumerary & has been put back to Lieut. He should soon go up again as he has two years seniority as Lieut. I noticed it in orders the other day but have not heard from him. I do not think he was near the recent fighting out Jerusalem way. I thought at one time that we might be sent out that way but probably they sent for new units from home instead of making use of those they have – quite probably they knew us & preferred to cut & try again. I had quite an interesting & enjoyable five day trip last week out into the desert to the edge of Balong Van’s. It included a 30 mile camel ride – done with a Gypsy syce – for 30 .... .... I have been wanting to use 2 or 3 wk cut price.

Best wishes to all

Yours very sincerely

Walter Buddin

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**18<sup>th</sup> May 1917**

A B Bruce Esq.  
Bd. of Agric. & Fisheries  
3 St James’ Square  
London S.W. 1

Dear Sir,

In regard to your telegram of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. with respect to the three men then exempted from the army by arrangement between the Board of Agriculture and the War Office, I beg to say that they have presented themselves for medical examination with the following results

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Classification</u>
A. W Rymer Roberts	37	B1
Bertie Weston	30	A

I wish to add however that the local Doctor to the classification of Bertie Weston as this man suffers from chronic gastritis and liver trouble; he is prepared to give a certificate to this effect and to support an appeal to the Medical Board.

Yours faithfully

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**18<sup>th</sup> May 1917**

The President of the Medical Recruiting Board  
Bedford

Sir,

Herewith I beg to enclose the certificate of a local Doctor Dr G.S.Leggatt, disagreeing from the classification of one of our employees Mr Bertie Weston, and I beg to ask whether it would be possible for this man to be re-examined in the light of this new evidence or whether the proper course would be to lodge an appeal before the Appeal Board.

This point is of some importance to us because by special arrangement between the Board of Agriculture and the War Office certain of our employees in Class B or lower are exempted in order to carry out certain agricultural work of National importance. I am therefore very anxious to know whether the present classification is to stand or not

Yours faithfully

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**21<sup>st</sup> May 1917**

Lt-Col Poynder R.A.M.C.  
Recruiting Medical Board  
Bedford

Dear Sir

I beg to thank you for your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup>. Inst. Bertie Weston, the man in question shall attend for re-examination tomorrow (Tuesday) morning as you suggest.

Yours faithfully

E.J.Russell

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22<sup>nd</sup> May 1917

**Reverse of letter from Russell to Poynder R.A.M.C.**  
(dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 1917)

As the man (*Bertie Weston*) & in a debilitated condition, I have altered his Category to R. R.

G F J Poynder Lt Col  
R.A.M.C.

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23<sup>rd</sup> May 1917

Lt- Col Poynder R.A.M.C.  
Recruiting Medical Board  
Bedford

Dear Sir

I should be glad if you would let me know if it is possible to obtain a warrant for Bertie Weston's journey to Bedford on Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. He had, as no warrant had been sent to him, to pay the fare of 6/2 himself.

Yours faithfully

E.J.R.

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13<sup>th</sup> June 1917

**Letter from Russell re Eames**

The O/C D. Coy  
112 Battalion, T.R.  
Wimbledon Common, S.W. 19.

Sir,

I beg to ask whether it would be possible for Private S.J.K.Eames (27158) to be given leave during the period of haymaking which commences very shortly and lasts for a fortnight. Prior to joining up he was our farm manager, and owing to the importance of securing a good hay crop I am anxious that it should be got in as skilfully as possible. If you can see your way to granting Private Eames leave for this purpose we shall be greatly obliged and under his expert supervision the quality of our hay will be considerably improved.

Yours faithfully,

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**26<sup>th</sup> August 1917**

**Letter from Appleyard to Russell**

H M Factory  
King's Lynn

Dear Dr Russell

Sir Frederick Nathan the Director of Propellant Supplies has recommended me to the India Office for the post of manager of the new acetone factory which is nearly completed at a place called Nashik about 80 miles from Bombay. The appointment is not yet made but I have reason to believe that if I pass the medical Board the thing will go thro'. The factory is designed along the same lines as the one at the Royal Naval Cordite factory for producing acetone by the Weizmann process. I am told the Indian Govt will offer me 1000 rupees per month or £800 a year whilst the factory is being constructed and that the agreement will probably be for the duration of the war & six months afterwards. Nashik is a hill station and a health resort used by the people of Bombay. It is near the source of the Godavari and on the main line from Bombay across the peninsular. So there is every prospect of the factory being in a healthy locality. I gather that Dr Fowler of Owens College has been out there as consulting bacteriologist and I understand he has returned.

I wonder if you will see him in the near future and if you would be good enough to find out for me what he thinks of the locality, and my prospects of success there. Apparently there has been an inquiry by Sir Frederick Black into the administration of this particular factory & I gather that Mumford(?) who held an appointment at the factory there has resigned. I am of course very anxious to secure some information about the place before actually committing myself. I wonder if you could help me. If so I should be grateful

Kind regards

Yrs sincerely

A Appleyard

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**28<sup>th</sup> August 1917**

**letter from Russell to India Office**

Sec India Office  
Whitehall S.W.

Dear Sir

One of our assistants (*A Appleyard*) has been offered a post at Nashik about 80 miles from Bombay and before advising him whether or not to accept I am anxious to obtain some information as to the suitability of the place for an Englishman: can you refer me to someone who would know anything about it.

I shall be very grateful for any information you can give

Yours faithfully

E J Russell

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**1<sup>st</sup> September 1917**

**letter from Adjutant to Russell**

From: The Adjutant

22<sup>nd</sup> Res. Battn. London Regt. (The Queen's)

To: The Director

Lawes Agricultural Trust

Rothamsted Experimental Station

HARPENDEN

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Reference your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo, I am instructed by the Commanding Officer to inform you that the question of Pte. Eames' admission to an Officer Cadet Unit has not yet been approved. If and when this approval comes to hand, I will then see what can be done on the question of leave.

J Cowling

Captain & Adjutant

22<sup>nd</sup> res. Battn. London Regt. (The Queen's)

Winnal Down camp

Winchester

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**19<sup>th</sup> October 1917**

**Letter from Russell to W A C, Hertford**

The Secretary of the War Agricultural Committee

Hertford

Sir

I beg to ask if it would be possible for our Farm manager, Private S.J.K. Eames No. 0.61552 to be released from the Army in order to undertake the supervision of the farm again?

We have 280 acres in cultivation of which 240 are arable and only 40 grass. Owing to the circumstance that we are now working almost entirely with old men, two over 70 and several over 50, and some women, it is becoming increasingly necessary and at the same time increasingly difficult to organise the work properly so as to get the best results. My own time is so largely taken up with work in connection



with the Food Production Department and other important National work that I am not able to give the constant attention to the farm that is necessary under present conditions, and the result is that our production is not as good as it ought to be. I wish to emphasise the large proportion of arable land that we maintain, and also the circumstance that we have the full quota of implements to work it, and further that our farm workers, although no longer young, are very willing. The farm does need, however the constant supervision of a competent man devoting himself wholly to it, and I therefore beg to ask the War Agricultural Committee if it will be good enough to bring about the return of our Farm manager.

I am, sir

Yours faithfully

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21<sup>st</sup> October 1917

**Letter from Sawyer to Russell**

LAT

Rothamsted

Dear Dr Russell

Last evening I called round at your house, only to hear that, while I had come from Norfolk to Harpenden for the week-end, you had gone to Norfolk from Harpenden for the same time! As you will see by the enclosure I am thinking of making application for a commission in the London sanitary Corps, & was wondering if you would consent to certify as to my character as per page 2 enclosed. If you would do this & forward the papers to me at King's Lynn I should esteem it a great favour. I am sorry that I was unable to see & have a talk with you, but as I have to return first thing Monday morning this is impossible.

Trusting you keep well these busy times

Believe me

Yours sincerely

G C Sawyer

\*\*\*\*\*

3<sup>rd</sup> November 1917

**Letter from Lewin's father to Russell**

Radstock

Somerset

Dear Dr Russell

I am in correspondence with the War Office concerning my son Kenneth, and I have to put in a certificate giving the following particulars:-

Date of Commencement at Rothamsted

*1<sup>st</sup> July 1913*

Occupation

*Protozoologist*

Name & Address of Employer

*Lawes Agricultural Trust*

*Rothamsted Experimental Station*

Salary

*£200*

I shall be very much obliged if you write down these particulars on half a sheet of paper, sign it, and send it to me.

I think you may be interested to know that both of Ken's brothers who are soldiers have won the Military Cross in turn, and both have been severely wounded. The eldest son, aged 30, has again taken his place in the fighting line after a prolonged period in England on account of his injuries. The other – my fourth son – aged 19 – is in hospital at Newcastle-on-Tyne recovering but slowly.

I hope that you and Mrs Russell and the children are all well.

Yours very sincerely

Charles J Lewin

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**8<sup>th</sup> November 1917**

**Letter from W A C to Russell re Eames**

HERTFORDSHIRE WAR AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
28, Castle Street  
Hertford

Dear Sir

Private S.J.K.Eames

With reference to your application for the release of Private Eames, the Committee have considered the case and are prepared to recommend the Board to make the necessary representations with a view of obtaining Eames's release. Will you kindly let me have as soon as possible the full regimental address of Eames

Yours faithfully

Charles C Longmore

Clerk to the Committee

Dr E J Russell  
Rothamstead Experimental Station,  
Harpenden

*In pencil No. G 61552 A Co. 22<sup>nd</sup> Batt Lond Reg, Chisledon Camp, Swindon*

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