

Clifford Edward Wallis

(1896-1918)



Introduction

Clifford Edward Wallis was born in Bishop's Teignton on the 16th of January 1896. He was the eldest son of Clifford Blinman Wallis and his wife Eleanor Anne Wallis (née Swain).

As Clifford's father was the head teacher in Bishop's Teignton, they lived at School House.

He had eight siblings, Fannie Mildred (Fannie), Nellie Christine (Teenie), Gladys Lilian, Francis Noel (Francie), Elsa Mary (Murlie), Kenneth Arthur (Kennie), Monica Joan (Joan), and Donald (Donnie) who sadly died as an infant.



Gladys, Teenie, Clifford, Fannie
Murlie, Daddie, Francie, Mammie, Kennie
Joan, Donnie

Clifford was a keen artist and musician. He was a talented organist, regularly playing in church [139]. Up until the war, he worked as a draughtsman at Messrs Willey & Co in Exeter.

After initially being refused due to his poor eye-sight ([[Army Form W. 3299](#)] – it is interesting to note the address recorded is that of Mr & Mrs White [2 and 23]), he was enlisted on the 14th of October 1916. He joined the 2nd Battalion Devonshire Regt. as a private (Regtl. No. 42625).

His letters home were kept and treasured, and later typed up by Jesse Browne [10] (Clifford's friend and brother in-law to be – Jesse Married Gladys Wallis in the last quarter of 1918).

These typed letters have been scanned and digitised using optical character recognition software [[Tesseract](#)]. Inevitably there are errors created in this process. I have attempted to correct these by hand, but some will remain, and some have been left as they are present on the original typed pages. The page numbers are as on the original typed document (there are some duplicated numbers, and one letter that was typed up, but loose A.1-A.2, which has been inserted at the end). I have added some footnotes to the pages – mostly contemporary reports of events referred to.

1.

Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
21.10.16.

My dear Mammie¹ and All.

I was very glad to get all the nice letters this morning. I am very sorry to have kept you waiting so long for a letter, but was inoculated the next day after I got down here and have only just got the use of my right arm back again so could not possibly write before. It was rather bad at first, three of them fainted but I am glad to say that it did not serve me like that. I think I shall like it alright, but at the same time shall be glad when it is over. You must not expect to see me for a week or two as you have to be here a certain time before you can get any time off; and then it is only from Saturday 2.30 pm. till Sunday 10 p.m. There is one thing though, you can get out every evening at 5 p.m. and stay out till 10 p.m., and with a special pass till 10.30 p.m. We have to be out of bed at 6 a.m., and on parade at 6.30, and am glad to say I have felt no ill effects yet, but rather feel a little better. You must not worry about me at all because I am quite all right and manage to enjoy myself. Of course they are very strict but that does not do any body any harm. I had not been down here half an hour when the Quarter-Master came in and asked if there was

anybody in the Hut that could draw, so of course I stepped forward and when I had finished he said it was very good. So I expect they know where to come when they want any more done.

The food here is very good, we can have tea to drink before we go out at 6.30 and a bit of supper when we come in at night, that is if you are in before it is all gone, but that does not worry me, as there is a nice Sailors' Rest down the street at which Soldiers are invited. They have a pleasant evening, and then at 8.30 they hand round a bun and coffee free; so I generally spend my evenings there, and get my supper for nothing, and come in at 9 p.m., and get my things ready for the next day. If you should be sending anything to eat please do not send too much at a time as there is no place whatever to keep it. I have heard from Mrs White² and she is kindly going to send me one or two things.

I shall not expect you to worry any more now as I am quite all right.

Hope that you will get this Sunday morning.

With love to all

Clifford.

Tregantle,
Cornwall.
25. 10. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I was very glad to get all the nice letters. You will see by the address that we have been shifted. We are at a place called Tregantle Musketry Camp. It is quite away from everywhere, right on the top of a place like Haldon, it is about four miles from the nearest place. We had to march a mile from Granby to the ferry, and then four miles from the other side to here with full packs on our backs, just as if we were going to France. Some of them felt a bit done up, but am glad to say I felt quite alright, only getting one foot a little sore. I expect it did seem funny to have Service in the afternoon, but it was a great deal less like Sunday to me, there is no chance to get out to early Service at all, and just as I was ready to go to Church Parade they marched me off with some others down to the doctor to be vaccinated; he did it in four places and am glad to say I have felt nothing of it yet. On Monday morning they marched us down to the Dentist; I was to have two teeth out, but when I sat in the chair he looked in my mouth and told me that there was no need to have any out at all, as I was quite alright; so you may imagine I was not at all sorry. I have heard that I am to have my second dose of inoculation to-morrow, so you must

not expect to hear from me for a day or two as the second lot is generally worse than the first. I am afraid that you won't see much of me before Christmas now that we have shifted out here, because it is so difficult to get here that there would not be time in a week end. I am glad to say that I am feeling very well indeed and haven't found anything too much for me yet.

With very best love to all

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

31. 10. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I was very delighted to get all your nice letters to-night and was very glad to get one from Daddie³, and hope that it will not be so very long before he does come down and see me. I went to Antony Church Sunday night with that Organist and a Sexton from another Church and had a very nice service. They only had a harmonium but are having a new organ soon and funnily enough Hele and Co.⁴ are going to build it. I am not surprised to hear about the aeroplane if you have had wind like we have had here⁺; tell Francie⁵ that that is a job for him to put right. I hope you will get the photos soon then you will be able to see what sort of belt I have. My best coat has pleated pockets but I was not wearing it when I was taken. Please send me on one or two when you

+ The Western Times – October 28th 1916. THE GALE. Various reports of stormy weather across Devon on the night of Thursday the 26th October and Friday the 27th.

get them. They were only 1/- for 6. Please thank Daddie very much for sending the photos to Exeter for I am sure I owe them enough.

I should be very glad if you could send me on one or two khaki handkerchiefs some day as white ones get dirty so soon. I am glad to say I am feeling quite well now, have been for a 6 mile route march and am quite alright.

Am afraid I can stay no longer now.

With love to all

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

1. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received yours and Christine's⁶ letter to-day, I must say I hardly expected another so soon but was very pleased all the same. It is nice to be in a good hut again, we have a very good and nice corporal over us, and that is a great thing. He wanted to know to-day who taught me the way to dry up dishes; he said that he could see that I was used to it, so I told him that I learnt it at home. I don't need any socks yet, but will let you know when I do. I should be very glad if you could send me on a music "Hymn Book" some time so that I can still sing a bit of Alto in Church on Sunday even-

ings. I am afraid I forgot to tell you how I enjoyed the parcel, it was a treat, as you only get one cake day a week in the Army and that is Sunday for tea. We had biscuits for tea to-night and my! they are hard, I will try and bring one home when I come just to let you see what they are like. Some of them can't get on with them at all but I am glad to say that I can manage to scrunch some of them, the rest of the food is plain but very good and nothing to grumble at, but it is very nice to have some home-made cake again. As the mornings are getting rather dark our time for getting up is altered from 6 a.m. to 6.30 a.m. so we are looking forward to an extra half-hour in bed to-morrow, but shall start night operations one night this week if the weather will allow it. Most likely we shall start firing on the "Miniature Range" to-morrow, we have learnt a great many rifle exercises already. I think that they are shoving it along a bit quickly so as to get us back to Granby as soon as possible, but that won't be for over a month. We have started to learn "Bayonet Fighting" and a little bit of Bombing but we shan't have much to do to the latter. They have very nice bath houses here with hot and cold water, I went and had a good hot one last night and enjoyed it very much and then to-night the order came round that all 12 section were to march down and have a bath so I was fortunate enough to have two this week.

I think that the enclosed card has to go to Mr. Perrett⁷,

if someone will kindly take it up.

I am glad to say I have quite got over my inoculation now and am feeling fit for anything.

I hope that everybody at home is quite well.

I remain

With very best love

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

5. 11. 16.

Dear Mammie,

Your letter of the 4th. just arrived as I was tying up your parcel so shall just be able to put in a line.

Shall look forward very much to next Saturday to seeing Daddie; will let you know where to meet me.

I think that I liked the cocoanut buns better, but I am only too pleased to have either.

With love

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

5. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All.

I received the parcel quite safely yesterday morning and thank you very much. Tell Teenie⁸ that they (the buns) are very nice and I am enjoying them very much, they are a change from canteen confectionery. I also received the Hymn book by the same post, and thank Murlie⁹ as well for her present.

I went into Devonport Saturday afternoon and bought a "Devon" brooch for Mammie and hope that she will like it, but of course I shall not expect you to put it in the place of your Canadian badge, but thought that you would like one all the same. I could hardly fancy Daddie wearing a badge in his coat or tie, so hope that he will like "Devon" match-box which is for him. I expect that he may find it useful. Tell the others that I will send them something as a "Memento" of the "Glorious Devons" another time, as soldiers' wages don't allow too much that way (although I had more this week) and you cannot get anything like that out here, not even a button, but have to go all the way to Devonport. I also had a letter from Jesse¹⁰, sending me on one of the photos. What do you think of it? I shall expect to get a better one than that when I come home. He asked me to meet him at Devonport this afternoon, so am looking forward to going if only the weather

will keep fine, but it does not look much like it just now, but if I can't get in he says I shall see him soon as he is coming out here one day this week. We were marched off to Church Parade this morning at the Y.M.C.A. and had a nice service but it was not much like Church of England. They started with the sermon; then Hymn "While Shepherds Watched"; then the "Sentences"; and went as far as the "Invitation to Praise"; then Hymn "Our Blest Redeemer"; then the Creed and a few Prayers; then Hymn "Fight the Good Fight" and then The King and Blessing. I find that there is an early Service there at 7.15 a.m. Sunday Mornings so shall try and go next Sunday. Am still feeling quite well and looking forward to Christmas.

Hoping that everybody is quite well at home,

I remain

With very best love

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

6. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received all nice letters and Photos to-day and was very pleased to get them as it does not seem as if you are so far away from home when you get letters often. I don't

think that you can be looking forward to my coming home any more than I am, but there will be no chance for a week or two, I am afraid I don't expect to get leave till Christmas, as there are only two passes issued to each section each week, so everyone has to take his turn and you may depend that my turn won't come just yet as there are others here who have been up much longer than I have who will go first. The weather here has been a little better to-day, but I don't mind what sort of weather we get this week as long as it is fine on Saturday, as I am looking forward very much to seeing Daddie and Francie then.

I was not able to go and see Jesse yesterday as it rained all the afternoon, so went to Antony Church in the evening and then went into the C.A. Hut for a little while afterwards. Am glad to say that I am still feeling quite well and fit.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

7. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I was delighted to get such a nice lot of letters to-day when I came in from drill. I am glad that you and

Daddie liked the little things that I sent. You seem to be having the same sort of weather as we are; we get such awful showers and a good many of the huts leak, but I am glad to say that ours is very fair. The camp is simply one sea of mud and water, we were to have gone out to-night for night operations but just as we were ready to start a heavy thunder storm came on; so they gave us a lecture in the hut instead on the same thing; and I was very glad, as we have had rather a heavy day to-day. The general rule of the day is out of bed at 6.30 a.m., get dressed, fold all blankets, and pack back all beds; (the beds are three boards on two little stands about 6 ins. off the floor, with a straw mattress and four blankets which have to be folded a particular way or else you hear about it,) then get on parade by ten past seven till twenty to eight for rifle exercises in the hut if wet, and if fine company drill outside, and then breakfast. After breakfast each one has to do his own particular job in the hut, mine is, to clean so many of the windows in the hut, after all is done we get ready for parade at 8.45 until ten for Physical Training; generally known as P.T., and from 10.15 till 11.0 Bayonet Fighting and from 11.15 till 12.30 Rifle Drill, and then dinner. Parade again at 1.45 till 3.0 for Squad drill or firing positions, standing and lying, from ten past three till 4.30 extending order drill, or perhaps a lecture; then tea, and after tea clean all brass work and rifle &c. for next day, end if it is your turn, skin the potatoes for next day.

Sometimes there is a lecture after tea from 6.0 till 7.30, but not every night and a good job too. I get on fairly well with all of it only finding the bayonet fighting a bit heavy, but shall soon get used to it. I don't mean that it strains me in any way, but we are given the "Canadian Ross" to learn on and they are a great deal heavier than the Enfield, which we shall have later on, if you can fight with a "Ross" they know very well that you will be alright with the English Rifle. You can tell Philip¹¹ that I am sorry for him having to use them always.

I enjoyed the service much more Sunday night being able to sing alto from music, but missed Mammie's voice very much as I was the only one singing alto round my way.

The Devons here are giving a Concert in the Y.M. on Thursday night so I expect there will be some row.

Tell Francie to get the bicycles in good order for Saturday, for I shall be very disappointed if Daddie and he can't come.

I think I had better stop now or you will be tired of reading it. You must please excuse it as there is plenty of noise going on round me.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

8. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie,

I received your nice letter to-day and was very glad to do so. I am very sorry to hear that there is such little hope of Daddie and Francie coming this week. If they do, I will be outside the "Royal Sailors' Rest" in Fore Street, Devonport at about 4 o'clock, as I can't get there much before because we have a Saluting Parade each Saturday afternoon till about 2.30, but will get in as soon as possible. I shall look anxiously for final news about it.

We have been for a long route march this afternoon from 2 o'clock until 5 o'clock and am glad to say that I did not find it a bit too much for me, in fact I quite enjoyed it, only wished that we could be marching through B.T. instead of Cornish villages, but must look forward to that later on.

I should be glad if you could send me on a small pocket book, to write down the words which you send back, as it is rather a bother keeping such a lot of small pieces of paper in one's pocket. The weather here to-day has been a little better, although we had to take our overcoats with us on the march, we had one or two showers but did not get wet. Tell Gladys¹² that I am very glad to hear that she is taking up music again, I only wish that I could, I have not

been able to touch a piano since I came away, you would be surprised to hear what splendid players some of these fellows are, I am afraid that there are some that I should not like to play before, and there being so many that the piano stool is seldom empty.

I suppose that Daddie has not taken the Photo of the Roll of Honour yet, I should like to have one as soon as he goes; are all the spaces filled up yet? I expect that they will be by the time that the War is over. I expect that Willie Discombe¹³ is feeling rather shaky now, having to join up in January, he will find that he will have to dance round a bit quicker in the Army than they do on a farm. Fancy Rolley¹⁴ coming home, I expect that he is very glad, I know that I should, but suppose that I must wait my turn.

I am afraid that I shall have to stop now as there is something gone wrong with the electric light, the whole of the camp is in darkness and we only have one candle in our hut and I have been lucky enough to get near it to finish this.

Hoping that all are quite well and with very best
love

from

Clifford.

P.S. Now that I have finished the light has come on again.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

9. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

You can guess how pleased I was to get another letter to-day with the handkerchiefs in, I think that they are very nice. I had just come to the end of my others as they get very rough work here. They all thought what a fine idea it was to mark them like that, with name and number.

Yes, I would like a few more of Gladys' buns one day when she has time, the last lot were a treat, but please don't, whatever you do, go without anything yourselves to send me things, as I know what things are like, especially "War time". Please don't think about sending any money as I can manage quite well on what I get. Ever so often we get all our money paid up to date so when that comes off for me I am looking forward to send you home some.

I was very pleased to hear that there are chances of Daddie coming so soon, but please if you possibly can, will you let me know a day or two before the Saturday so that I shall not have arranged anything else on that particular day; if you like to let me know the time and the place I might be able to get into Devonport and that would save Daddie a bit of the journey.

We have been on the range this afternoon for grouping and had to get all the shots inside a 3" ring to pass, and am

glad to say that all mine were well in, so I don't think that that was so bad, being the first that I have ever fired at all. I happened to be left hand man for unfixing bayonets this , morning and after we had finished the corporal told me that I did it very well, having done it the smartest in section so far, so hope that I shall continue so.

I expect that Joey¹⁵ was glad to be sent back for a while, but I expect that he will have to go later on, they are not letting many go now, there are several here trying to work their ticket as they call it, that is trying to get discharged. There were some to-day who said that they could not see, but when they went before the Doctor he told them that no one would get discharged and if they did not make haste and read some of the letters he would put them in the labour batn. where they would have to work six times as hard as an ordinary soldier and then go to France after that, so you may depend you don't gain anything by shirking.

Again thanking you very much for the handkerchiefs and with very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

10. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received the nice letters to-day with the enclosed little book which is just what I wanted. Please thank Teenie very much for it. I must ask you to excuse me writing a long letter to-night as I have been very busy all day and on Friday nights there is always a great deal to do as on Saturday mornings we have a kit inspection and everything has to be cleaned properly. I will write and tell you all about it either to-morrow or Sunday.

With very best love to all

Clifford.

In very great haste.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

13. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I must ask you please to forgive me for not writing to you on Sunday, but I went to see Jesse instead. I had not seen him or heard anything so thought that I might just as well try and see him. I left this camp about 2 p.m. and walked to Torpoint and then took the ferry across to Devonport, then

got on a tram and went to St. Budeaux, then I had to walk a good mile down to Saltash ferry, and crossed over, and after asking one or two soldiers easily found the camp, reaching it about 5 p.m., but was disappointed to find that Jesse had gone away to preach and would not be back till 10 p.m., but had a very nice time and a very nice tea, then I left there about 6 p.m. and reached Torpoint about 7.45 p.m. and as there were no motors I had to walk; as I was getting near Antony I thought that I must be getting near to Kingsteignton as I was beginning to feel that way, but soon put that right when I reached the C.A. Hut, arriving back at the camp at 9.30. feeling pretty tired, but am quite alright to-day.

We had some Sunday morning this week I can tell you. Three of us in our hut got up early to go to the early Service at 7 a.m. at the Y.M.C.A., when we got there nothing had been put straight from the night before, so we turned to and put the place a bit ship-shape and waited, but no Chaplain turned up, so we went home to breakfast. There were about nine of us altogether. At 9 a.m. we all-turned out for Church Parade at Y.M. and again no Chaplain turned up so we were dismissed. One or two of us were determined not to be done out of our morning service so walked down to Antony for the service there and enjoyed it very much. It was the first morning service I have been able to go to since I came away.

I am very pleased to hear about Philip being made Sergeant but I am afraid I have no wish whatever to get any

stripes (not that there is any chance for me either), I would much rather stay as I am and do what I can, although I am afraid it isn't very much.

Will write more another time as I have to answer a letter from Mrs White. I am still feeling quite well in every way.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

14. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I was very delighted to get all the nice letters this morning and thank you very much. Just fancy Luton School House going like that⁺, am very glad that no one was hurt; who will have to pay for that? I suppose that it has frightened Mr. Comyns¹⁶ a bit. I am very glad that there seems more hope of Daddie coming down this week. I passed another "Royal Sailors' Rest" on my way to Saltash, opposite Keyham Dockyard and think that that must have been the one that Daddie and Teenie stopped at and not the one in Fore Street. Would you please let me know which one to meet them at. They can get to the one in Fore Street by tram either from Derry's Clock

+ South Devon Weekly Express Nov. 17th 1916 LUTON SCHOOLHOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE. At 5 o'clock on Monday [13/11/16], the Newton Fire Brigade were called to a fire at the School House, Luton, and on arriving found that the flames had obtained a strong hold. Fortunately, the furniture had been partially saved, and, as the house was practically doomed, the brigade turned their attention to the school buildings, which they were successful in saving, together with the contents.

or North Road Station. I shall, if all's well, be able to get to either just before 4 p.m. if you will let me know which one.

Please wish Murlie A Happy Birthday⁺ for me and give her the Devon badge, and tell her that if I was home I would make it into a brooch for her but I expect she can get it done in Teignmouth. The buttons are for Mammie, Fannie¹⁷, Teenie and Gladys and I will get one for Kennie¹⁸ and Joan¹⁹ later on, I thought that they would rather have smaller ones as they have already teatrays, &c., they are buttons from the sides of the hat, as I expect you know.

I forgot to tell you that as I was going to Saltash Sunday afternoon I passed a young fellow walking along and thought that I knew him and after it was too late I found out who it was, it was Bertie Cole²⁰, I was very sorry I did not notice him in time as it is nice to see some face that I know sometimes, after seeing so many strange ones here.

I had a letter from Mrs. Risdon²¹ to-day asking me to spend next Sunday afternoon with them in Plymouth, I think that it is very kind of her so shall try and manage to go in.

You must be getting rather worried about Arthur²², I do hope that he is alright, let me know as soon as you hear from him, very likely there is a delay in the post. I expect that by this time Mr. White²³ is over there, I do hope that he will get back quite safely. We have been in the trenches here to-day just to get us into the way of it, then they put one

+ Murlie's Birthday - 15th November

party in the trenches and I was in the lot for storming and charging them. We had a very nice time and it is very interesting, we were told afterwards that we did it very well, only if it had been real "Warfare" we should every one of us been done in, which was very encouraging, wasn't it? Our section went on the Miniature Range again yesterday morning to do what they call application firing; and I made 17 out of 20 which they said was very good as even the highest did not make more than 18 out of 20. They tell us that in a week or two we shall start firing on the big out-of-door range, I don't know at all how I shall get on then. There is a rumour going about the camp that we may be shifted from Tregantle in a week or two, and possibly we shall go a little nearer Exeter in billets, I do hope so, but of course it is of no use believing anything at all until it comes out in the company orders, I am afraid that it is far too good to be true, but shall hope so all the same, and yet at the same time I don't see how they can keep them here all the winter, the weather does upset the drill so and a good many of the huts leak like sieves.

We have been having very heavy mists the last day or two and it does make such a lot more work in cleaning brass work, rifle &c. You have to dry off your rifle every time you come in and oil it every night or else it would be quite rusty by the morning and then you wouldn't half catch it. I was told on parade this morning to get my hair cut again so have had another crop to-night and must say that it feels a good

deal more comfortable. I hear that we are to go out on night operations for three hours on Friday. We (the Devons) are to attack the Worcesters, so don't know how it will turn out.

Am afraid that I must stop now as it is getting near closing time.

Hoping that all are quite well and with very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

15. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie,

I received your nice letter to-day and thank you very much. I expect Jesse was a bit sorry that I missed him on Sunday, but I only went there on the off-chance of seeing him, as it was the week before that he asked me to go over, but it rained so hard that I could not go out at all. He asked me to meet him at Devonport Station and go by train to Saltash with him but I can't possibly do that because we can't get into any station without a special pass and you seldom get any chance of getting one here. Why it is so hard to get leave here is because the camp is on the coast defence and there are

bound to be so many in the camp always. I expect that Jesse told you that they are opening a C.A. Hut in this camp now and the captain that I saw at Jesse's hut is coming to take charge of it, so that will be nice, won't it? He seems very nice indeed.

We have been on the miniature range again to-day and I got on fairly well considering. We had to fire three different classes, at figure targets, that is, the bull is shaped like the head and shoulders of a man standing in a trench. To pass the first class you had to get five shots anywhere on the card and that time I made 15 so that one was alright. To pass the second, you had to make a score of 12 and that time I just managed to scrape through with 13. The next one was lying down like the others but firing over a breast work cover, to pass this one you also had to make a score of 12, but this time I managed to make 18 which they said was very good. We have all had to hand in our "Ross Rifles" to-night and we were very glad to do so, and are to draw the "Service" one in the morning. You can imagine why we are glad to do so, because the English one is more than two lbs. lighter than the Ross, which makes a lot of difference by the time you have carried it eight or nine miles. They have also taken away our "discs" as they say that we shall not want them till we go to the front, so I suppose when we get them again we shall know what's up. I don't remember if I told you that my card for Mr. Perret is at "Willey's"²⁴. With very best love to all from

Clifford.

Tregantle, Cornwall.

16. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received the nice letters to-day and am very glad that you were all so pleased with the buttons, I thought that you would rather have the smaller ones.

We have had some job to-day, we each had to take a mattress and pillow and carry them to the A.S.C. stables and empty all the straw out of them and then bring them back to the stores and hand them in and receive a clean tick, then go back to the stables again and get them filled with clean straw and bring them back into our huts again. It was quite a change from drill, I can tell you, and quite nice to have a little rest from it. Then after that we had to go and draw the other rifles, they have issued us out with brand new "Enfields" of the very latest design and make, they are considered to be superior to any others in the world, they are going to issue them to all the troops at the front. One thing about them is that you can tell the very moment the magazine is empty instead of wasting time thinking that there is still another round in when it is empty. It has taken me quite two hours to clean the grease off it and to get it ready for inspection to-morrow. It has been barrack inspection to-day and there were three huts picked out of the whole camp as being the cleanest and tidiest

and am glad to say that ours was one of the three.

It was no fault of the Chaplain last Sunday that we had no Service, he had been called away and. through some misunderstanding the other one did not come.

We have had good exercise for our teeth to-day, for they have given us biscuits for breakfast, tea and supper, I will let them have one on Saturday to bring home, so that you can just see what they are like, I don't think that even Murlie could bake anything so hard. I am afraid that I have done the same as everyone else to-day and that is run to the canteen directly after each meal to get something to eat.

I have got a post-card to send you in which you can see what sort of spot we are in, most likely I shall have to send it to-morrow because if we go out for three hours in the evening I shall not have time to write a letter.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle,
Cornwall.
19. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received the nice letters this morning. I hope that Daddie reached home quite safely last night and that he was not very tired. I got back quite safely and just looked in at the C.A. Hut on the way home, I reached the hut at about 8.45 p.m. When I got inside I saw the Captain whom I saw at Saltash and he kindly gave me all my refreshments free. I think that he is coming up to the camp to take over his hut one day this week. Please thank Gladys very much for the buns, they are very nice indeed and I am enjoying them very much, I don't think that you need worry about my not being able to eat buns made with brown flour as they teach you to eat anything in the Army. There was an argument on at breakfast this morning as to whether the bread we had was made before the war or not, but any way it went down alright.

There was no early service again this morning, but I expect it will be alright when the C.A. Hut is open, as the Y.M. C.A. don't take any interest in Church Services. The Church parade was altered to 10 a.m. and we had some service, it is not like going to Church at all, it only lasts about 20 minutes. I don't know if I shall be able to go to Mrs. Risdon's

this afternoon as it is very showery here to-day, but still, I don't mind what it is like to-day, as it was so fine yesterday, and I am afraid that Saturday was the only day that I troubled about. I heard from Mrs White to-day and she has heard that Mr. White has landed safely in France so I hope that he will get on alright. She says that they have billeted 800 in Exeter this week and I do wish that we could be the next lot there, but I am afraid that there will be no such luck for us. It is Beatie Burlie²⁵ that is up in the shop with her, I could not make out the name last time she wrote.

I must stop now as it is nearly dinner time and it does not do to be late for dinner in the Army as it is first come first served, so I can tell you that I am not one of the last.

With very best love to all and hoping that the visitors enjoyed themselves as well as I did

I remain with love

Clifford.

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Tregantle,
Cornwall.
20. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

Your letters arrived here quite safely this morning and I was very glad to get them. I wrote you a letter on Sunday before I went to Plymouth, but am sorry to say that I forgot to post it so expect that you will get it much about the same time as this one. I was afraid yesterday morning that the weather would keep me from going in to see Mrs. Risdon, but am glad to say that it cleared up a bit after dinner so I managed to get in. I was able to catch a motor into Torpoint, and Togo²⁶ and his Uncle Fred²⁷ met me at the ferry, then we got on a car and rode out to Mutley where their private house is. I must say that I had a very nice time indeed and enjoyed it very much. They asked me to play to them a bit, but I am sorry to say that I did not get on at all well, I should hardly have thought that my fingers could have got so stiff in the time but when I get home I expect that a good day's scales will improve things, at least I hope so. I left there about 8 p.m. after having a very enjoyable time. Mr. and Mrs. Risdon²⁸ and Togo, also his Uncle Fred and Auntie Florrie²⁹ and old Mrs. Risdon³⁰ were there, and they all did everything to make me enjoy myself. When I left, old Mrs. Risdon loaded me with pasties

and cakes which I think was very kind of her. Mr. and Mrs. Risdon and Togo came right down to the ferry and saw me off and when I got on the ferry I found that I was on the 9.15 boat, which is always the last across, so you can depend that I was very glad that I caught it; as it was I did not get in till about an hour after time, but am glad to say that I did not see any "Red Caps" so it was quite alright, they are not anything like so particular about time in a camp like this as they are in a town barracks, they never say anything to anyone as long as they are in by 6 a.m. the next morning.

We have been on the range again to-day working disappearing targets, I have not got room to tell you all about it now so will wait till another night, perhaps to-morrow, as we shall be on the same job again.

With love to all

from

Clifford.

P.S. Mrs. Risdon sends her love and says that she never saw me looking so well before as I am now.

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Tregantle,
Cornwall.
21. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

Thank you very much for the nice letters which I received quite safely to-day. We have been on the miniature range again this morning for a different grouping shoot, this time it was on the ordinary bull targets and you had to make a three inch group to pass, I managed to get through again, I am glad to say. This afternoon we have again been on the big range working the targets for field firing which 30 Platoon were on, and when they have finished they will have to do the same for us while we fire, which we have been told will most probably be next week, but this is not counted as firing your course, it is only for a bit of practice. They have been firing at the targets with ball cartridges to-day which made it much more interesting for those who were working them, giving you a little idea of what it must be at the front. The piece of the field range in which we had to work was supposed to represent men firing over a trench, they are made of thin three-ply wood hinged so as to drop down into a trench, and a rope tied to them which you pull when they are wanted to rise. There are six of these targets in a row and they put three men to work them, that meant that each man has to pull two ropes, which work the targets. There is a little dug-out just large

enough for three made in the side of the hill (which the men are firing down) just about four yards away from the targets, in which the three that are pulling the ropes can sit side by side, there is an electric bell in the dug-out and when it rings the first time you pull the targets up and when it rings the second time you let them down; they are up for about the space of four seconds. After you have connected up all the targets to the dug-out and have got inside you dare not come out till you are ordered to by an N.C.O. or else you would be almost certain to stop one or two bullets, which would not be too pleasant. It is quite exciting when they are firing at your targets, the bullets simply fly over your head in showers and my! they do whistle. They showered the earth all over us when they struck the ground, but of course it is impossible to get hit by one as long as you stay in the dug-out, so you can guess that we did not come out till we were ordered to.

I expect that George Smith³¹ will find a great deal of difference in the infantry, he will find that he will have to walk a bit more now, but that will not hurt him, they will tell you here that they do not want anything else but infantry, there have been a lot more transferred from other Regiments into the 3rd. Devons here to-day.

They have started seeing about the week-end passes to-day, putting all the names down on a roll in order. There are two sections in every hut, in ours it is 10 and 12, and

they only give two from 10 section, 1 from 12 one week, and then two from 12 section and 1 from 10 the next week, and so on as your name comes on the roll, it is a long roll and my name is the last but one, so there is not much likelihood of my getting mine till after Christmas, so suppose that I must put up with it, and still look forward.

I am very sorry to hear that Uncle Jim³² is so poorly, I can quite understand him finding full pack drill a bit trying if he is not feeling very well.

We can see a bit of snow lying on Dartmoor but of course we see just the opposite of the moor to that which you see at home.

I think that I had better stop now or you will be tired of wading through this letter.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

22. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your letters quite safely to-day and thank you very much for them. I am afraid that I shall not be able to stay very long writing to-night, but think that there is just time for a few lines. We have just returned from our first night operations, we have been out for three hours from 5.30 to 8.30 so that does not leave much time for letter writing. We marched out to a field about three miles from the camp, and had a try at rushing trenches, sentry-go and out-post duty &c., and I enjoyed it very much. This afternoon we had a bit of shooting out of doors, it was still miniature at 25 yard range. It was 11 and 12 section that fired to-day and I am glad to say, and I think that you will also be pleased to hear, that I was at the top of the whole lot, scoring 18 out of 20, the next highest being 17.

I am sorry that I cannot stay any longer but it is just on closing time.

With very best love

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

23. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received the letters to-day with the news about Teignmouth, but I am very much afraid that that will not fall to our lot, we have heard nothing about it, and I don't see how it can be if they are coming in a day or two, because we start our big range firing to-morrow if it is fine and that may last for a week or two if the weather is not as it should be. We had a most beautiful day here yesterday, the sun was shining all the day and it was quite hot, and now to-day you can hardly stand upright against the wind and rain.

We finished our last shoot on the miniature range to-day, we had three rapid shoots to do, the first was on a figure target and all five rounds had to be got off in 35 seconds and get all five hits on the target anywhere to pass, and that time I scored 13. The next was on disappearing targets and they were only up for six seconds at a time. This was the poorest I have ever had, as I only had one hit out of five, but I can tell you that there were a good many who did not get one at all. The next and last was the same as the one before only you had four seconds instead of six to get off each shot in, and this time I had three hits, so that was not at all bad as no one in the section had more than three.

The competition for the cleanest huts is running very

strong, the Captain told us that this week it rests between our hut, No. 3 and hut No. 7. I hope that we shall get the 2/6 this week, but it makes a lot of extra work for us, I can tell you, I did not finish till about 8 p.m. to-night.

It is my turn to-morrow to do orderly duty, so shall not have much time to myself, but will write as long a letter as I can, one night I will tell you all that you have to do when you are on that job, but I don't expect that it will be to-morrow night. I hope that you will excuse this letter, I know that it is very bad, but the Devons (M Company) are giving a concert and there is some noise, I can tell you.

With very best love to all
from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

24. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have received no letter to-day so expect it is to do with the post, but must say that I missed it very much.

We were to have started on the open range this morning if the weather had been fine but it was so misty and wet that we could not do anything, but fortunately, after dinner it cleared up very nicely so we were able to march on to the

range. This turn did not count in the course, it was only a bit of grouping practice as it was the first time we had fired with the full-size ammunition, and I can tell you there is a great difference between it and the miniature, my! I almost thought that my head was off, it is alright as long as you hold it tight against your shoulder but even then it does give you a shaking up, it seems as if it pushes you quite a foot backwards and then up again. I got on very well indeed for four shots, I had them right in the very middle of the bull, and then I don't know if I got excited or no, but just as I was getting ready the rifles on each side of me went off together and it made me jump so that I fired without knowing it, but the shot went on the target a good way away from the bull which brought my group down to a 12" one, which only just passes for that practice. You can guess that I was jolly wild, the corporal said that it was very hard lines indeed as he was looking to me to help keep up scoring for 12 section. I can tell you that there is a very great competition between the different sections in shooting, each one trying to beat the other. There are four sections firing, 9, 10, 11, and 12, so I very much hope that ours will-come on top. The length of the range to-day was only fifty yards, but to-morrow we have to fire at 100 yards. First of all we have to fire what is called the recruits' course, which starts to-morrow at the 100 yards, after that we get the course to fire which determines which you are, first of all comes "Marksman" which is all out of the question

for me, the next is "First-class" shot which I am going to have a good try for, but it will take some getting, then comes "Second-class" and lastly "Third-class" which I hope that I do not get, but of course you never know. After that we have finished our firing you must expect me home for my six days, and then you don't know what will happen, we might be sent across to France to finish our training, but most likely we shall stay home till the Spring. We heard to-day from one of the sergeants that they want to get the firing over and get back to Devonport by December 17th. and then we might stay there for the rest of the time, or might be shifted to other towns as we have heard before, but I am afraid that there is no chance for Teignmouth and I am not going to worry macs about going until we are on the way. I will let you know each day how I get on on the range, as I expect that you would like to know how I am getting on, but I am afraid that the aiming and allowing for wind will upset me.

I am afraid that this is all now.

With very best love to all

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

26 & 27. 11. 16.

My Dear Mammie and All,

I received your nice letter quite safely to-day. Yesterday, I am glad to say, it was fairly fine so we were able to go out on the range, but I did not get on at all well, or. or how I should like to have. We started at the hundred yards and I only made a twelve inch group, which only just passed me and at the two hundred yards I only just managed to get ten, which only just got me through again. On the three hundred I missed the target altogether with the first two shots, so you can guess that I was getting pretty wild with myself, when the Company Sergeant Major told me to get up and he got down and fired six rounds and missed the target every time, so when he got up he told me that it was the rifle and not I that was wrong and that I was not to use it any more but borrow someone else's when I fired again. I was glad to find out that it was not all my fault, but of course it did not matter so very much as it was not firing for our class, we do not start that until Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday.

In the afternoon I went into Devonport for a few hours and had tea at the "Sailors' Rest" and wished that it was the Saturday before. There was no early service as far as I could make out, but the Chaplain gave out that there would be one in the C.A. Hut next Sunday, which is being opened some

time this week. We marched to Church parade at 10.30 and had a very nice service and I went for a walk in the afternoon with the fellow who sleeps next to me, in the evening I went to Antony Church with Mr. May³³, the Organist of Ashwater and we had a very nice service indeed and I enjoyed it very much, it seems more like being in our own Church now that I have a music Hymn book and can sing a little bit of alto.

I tried to get this letter off last night but could not, so am finishing it to-night. We have had a most beautiful day here to-day, it could not have been better for firing. We started at the 400 yards, which was finishing up what we did on Saturday and I made 15 out of 20 and that was the highest score that I made all day, I am sorry to say, for I have hardly got used to the rifle that I have borrowed yet. I forgot to say that they have taken away our new rifles as no one knows anything about them yet and they have given us ones that have been sent back from the front and have just been patched up a bit, (and they are some rifles) which I don't think gives us hardly a fair chance. I don't think that the one that I am using now is much better than the one I had before. I had a bit of a muck-up in firing the 200 yards rapid, in the rapid you have to fire off five rounds in 30 seconds, that includes loading and all, and it takes a bit of doing. Right at the first I had a "jamb" in putting the round in the rifle, which wasted a lot of time and then the bolt got hot and I had a great deal of bother in pulling it back and I was unable to

reload at the shoulder as I ought to have done, but I got 3 of the 5 off in the 30 seconds and scored eight, which was not so bad, but I very much hope that I shall have better luck when I fire my class or I am afraid it will look very much like third class. You will be sorry to hear that our hut did not get the 2/6 after all and it was all through one man leaving a pair of boots under his bed uncleaned and there will be no chance of any more half-crowns as the Captain who gave it has been called away to the front again, (this is the second time he has been out) and everyone in the camp is very sorry as he was liked by all. We were all called down into No. 9 hut Sunday morning to say goodbye to him, and he said how very sorry he was that he would not be able to go right through it all with us and asked us to remember that we were "Devons" and try to keep up the good name that they had won.

They want us to finish firing and get back to Granby by the 10th. now to make room for the Yeomanry that have been put in the Devons, who are now at Devonport to come out here, so I expect that George Smith will find himself out here before long, I wonder how he will like it. It is a most beautiful place when it is fine and the sun is shining; the ranges are all amongst the cliffs that run right down to the sea and you can see the whole of Whitsand Bay and it does look lovely, but when the weather is bad I don't think that you could find a worse place, the rain simply drives in in sheets, I only hope that it will keep like it has been to-day till we have finished

firing, but I am afraid that that is too much to expect.

Must stop now as it is just closing time.

With love,

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

28. 11. 16.

My Dear Mammie and All,

Thank you all very much for the nice lot of letters I received to-day, and especially the long one from Daddie and the coloured ones, no one else had such pretty ones as I did.

I hope you will excuse the letter I sent last night, but I was rushed for time and never had time to read it over, so I expect that there was plenty wrong with it. I had only started it a little while when our wonderful electric light went out and I wasted nearly all the evening waiting for it to come on again, but had to borrow a candle after all, and before I had time to finish it was time to clear out.

We have had another nice day to-day, just alright for firing, so we have finished up our recruits' course and start our class to-morrow if the weather permits. I am glad to say that I made a better show to-day but still there is a great deal of room for improvement. The first one to-day was five

rounds rapid, standing, et two hundred yards and at that I made 14. The next was snap shooting, that is, the targets are only up for four seconds at a time, but that time I only got 8. After that we had to fire five rounds slow at three hundred yards, but this time it was ten rounds rapid to be cot off in one minute, it was hot work, but in the class you have to get off 15 rounds in one minute so I don't know how I shall come off then, it is known as the "Mad Minute", and I should think it was, In the ten rounds that I have just spoken about, I got off all ten and made 19, which might have been a great deal worse. We finished up before dinner, and this afternoon we have been working the moving targets, or "Bobbing Jennies", as they call them, for 30 Platoon, and that finishes up all their firing; this is the last you do, and it is called field firing, but is not counted in the class. They are going on their six days' leave now and we shall do the same as soon as we have finished. We have been told that most likely we shall be home in ten days' time, (but all that depends on the weather), but you must expect to see me some time about then. It is hardly six days, as they call it, but you get quite four clear days at home. In that case my leave will be over before Christmas, but still I shall gladly put up with that as long as I can get home to see you all some time, so don't be frightened to find that I shall be coming home any time. I had a letter from Mrs White on Monday and she told me about Mr. White, I do hope that she will hear soon. I suppose that I shall have to go to Exeter

one day when I am home, for I should like to go and see Mr. Tre-
neer³⁴ as well, and also old Tommie³⁵ (I don't think).

I don't remember if I told you last night, (but you must forgive me if I did) that I sent one of my photos to "Nibbie"³⁶ and had a letter back almost directly, telling me all the news of Willie and Co. He said that they have taken on another fellow in my place, but that he is not a scrap of good and that he can't draw a bit, he even cried the first week he was there and said he did not like it, so he must be some good in that place! I bet that I would not cry if I was still up there, but I should not like to leave the Army now, till the War is over. Of course I would much rather be at home, but at the same time I can't really say that I don't like it. I suppose that I have got used to it now and it is surprising what a lot of enjoyment you can get out of it if you only like to look for it.

Tell Daddie that I have nothing to do with machine guns here, but if I get a first-class shot I stand a very good chance of getting on one then, but am afraid that that is all out of the question for me. If you are lucky enough to get on gun you are transferred to the "Machine Gun Corps" and go up country somewhere and then you get about another three months or so home here for training in that line.

I am afraid that this is all the news now, but shall be able to tell you the rest when I come home.

With very best love to all from
Clifford.

Tregantle, Cornwall.

29. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your nice letters to-day quite safely. You must please excuse this letter to-night as our electric light has not come on yet and all the huts have to be lighted with candles, there are eight of us round one trying to write and I can't see if I am on the lines or no.

We have been firing all day to-day and only have one more practice to do to-morrow. I have got on better to-day but there is a very poor chance of my getting first -class. The only chance at all is if I can only get a possible on the last one but that is too much to expect altogether. To be first-class you have to be 90 points and at present I have 77, that leaves me 13 more to get. The last one is the Bobbing Jennie, which is only up for four seconds at a time, and if you get all on, it just gives you 15, so you can see that my chance is very poor, but I shall do what I can. I should like to tell you all about the scores as I have before, but I can't really see.

Will write more when I can see.

With love

Clifford.

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Tregantle Camp,
Cornwall.
30. 11. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your letter quite safely this morning. You will be sorry to hear that I missed my first-class by about nine points, so must hope for better luck next time, but I don't trouble about that at all now, because if all's well I shall be with you some time on Saturday. I don't expect I shall be able to let you know what time I arrive at Teignmouth, but expect it will be some time in the afternoon; if I possibly can will send a wire, but I hardly expect that I shall get a chance. I don't know for how long I shall be home, but I hope that it will be the six days, they said that they could not tell us to-night exactly how long we should get. We are almost sure of coming this time as they have taken all names and addresses for the passes to-night.

We have one day's field firing to do to-morrow and that will finish our firing altogether. They have picked those for Machine Gunners to-day and I was one of them, but when we got out on parade they had the cheek to tell me that I could not go as I was not old enough, as you had to be 19 or older, so I soon told them that I was old enough, but they tell me that I am put down on their papers as 18½, so that is their fault if I don't have to go just yet.

I don't expect that I shall be able to write to-morrow night as we shall be very busy packing, but you will hear all news when I come. There is one thing, I shall be sure of going to early service next Sunday and in our own Church too.

With love to all

from

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

1. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your letters quite safely to-day. I hope that before you get this letter you will have received my wire, which a friend is sending off for me at Antony to-night. I expect you were as sorry as I was that our leave has been put off until Monday, but should not have been able to leave till late on Saturday, and as things are now shall be able to get away in the morning. The worst of it is, I shall get no Sunday at home now, but must put up with it and think that we are lucky to get any leave at all. We have been out all the evening "Night Firing" so shall not have time to write any more now.

With love to all,

Clifford.

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Tregantle, Cornwall.

10. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have arrived back here quite safely, and in plenty of time. We go back to Devonport on Monday, so will let you know address as soon as I can.

With love to all,

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

11. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your letters and bits of photos to-day before I left Tregantle, but I think that there is a mistake somewhere, as, you have sent me on two of Arthur's, one from Mammie and one from Teenie, but I have not read either of them so tell Teenie that she need not worry. I am sending back both of them. We have only just got here and am not at all straight, so can't stay to write any more now, but will let you know all the news as soon as I can.

With love,

Clifford.

Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

12. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received Teenie's letter with the photos that Mr. Grove³⁷ took, and think that they are very nice, but don't think that they are any better than the ones that Gladys took.

We had some march yesterday to get in here, we had full pack on and rifles and just after we had started it came on to rain and after we had got fairly wet they ordered us to take out our overcoats and put them on, and as you may guess it stopped raining then and cleared up, but we got in after all and I am none the worse for it, I am glad to say.

They are going to put us through it in here this time, We were doubling round Devonport Park at 7 a.m. this morning, before it was hardly light and have been going for it hard all the rest of the day. Old "Fire Works"³⁸ (that is the nickname we give our Sergeant Major) has been drilling us most of the day, so we have had to be careful what we were up to.

Not all of our company have come back from Tregantle yet, 29, 30 and 31 Platoons have, but 32 had not quite finished their firing when we came away. One of them told me that Sergeant Cooper³⁹ told them that I was the best shot in the company of those wearing glasses, so I could not have been quite so bad as I thought I was. You see why it is, is because they

don't expect good shots from those wearing glasses, as they think that they can't see very well.

This Y.M.C.A. is very different from a Y.M. hut, it is set out just like a drawing-room, carpets on the floor and all, and so comfortable, it is more like home than anything else and only a few yards away from the Barracks.

I am afraid that I shall not be able to write much each night now, as we have to keep our stuff much cleaner and up to the mark, as they are much more particular in here than at Tregantle, but will write as much as I can.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
13. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your nice letters quite safely this morning. You will be glad to hear I have seen Mark Knight⁴⁰, he came into our hut just after tea and said he had been all round Granby Barracks to find me. He saw me out on parade this afternoon, but I did not see him, so he made up his mind he would find me to-night, which I think was very nice of him, he seemed

very pleased to see me. He is most likely going off to the front again to-morrow and if not, some time next week, but he will hear if it is so during the evening. He asked particularly to be remembered to you all and said how much he enjoyed that Sunday he came out to tea.

I am getting on quite alright down here, but they are a great deal more strict than at Tregantle. We have started on a four days' "Bombing Course" and we shall have some job to learn it all in that time. They told us it is as much as you can learn in ten days, but we have to cram it all in in four if possible. In that time you have to learn all about the different explosives and bombs, and how to throw them, and I can tell you it is as much as one can do in the time, and then they give you an exam on it to finish up with. I don't get on too well with the throwing, I can tell you, it needs some strength to throw them as far as they want you to, but of course if you don't throw them far enough you do more damage to yourself than you do to the enemy. They only let you throw one live one home here, and that is the one you end up with.

I am afraid I must stop now, as I want to write out properly the note we took down about bombing to-day.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

14. 12. 16.

My Dear Mammie and All,

Your nice letters arrived here safely this morning.

I am afraid that I shall not have much time to write to-night as they have given us a lot of notes to-day. The exam most likely will be next Tuesday and we shall throw our live bomb on Monday. I don't know how I shall get on, I do not like bombing as much as I like firing, there is not so much skill required as strength in the arm, but I hope that I shall improve with a bit of practice.

I am afraid that I am not expecting to get any leave at Christmas, as we have heard nothing of it yet.

We shall be losing all our nice N.C.Os this week as they are being sent off with 29 platoon, the next lot to go will be 30, and then our turn will come.

I have seen nothing of Mark Knight to-day, so expect that he has had to go again.

Must stop now, with very best love

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
15. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

Your letters arrived quite safely to-day. When we were out doing bombing this afternoon I saw Mark Knight march by with a lot of others so he has not gone yet, but I expect he may go on Sunday as that is when all our N.C.Os go most likely.

We have been on bombing all day to-day, throwing them standing and lying down and also trench storming, as they call it, and we may have to do it before the C.O. to-morrow, so hope that we shall get on alright. I am afraid that I do not get on too well with the throwing, it is some job, I can tell you, especially when you have not been used to throwing much, those who have been used to playing cricket get on alright, So there is not much chance of my being picked out as a bomber and I cannot say that I am very sorry.

I had a letter from Mrs White to-day and she says that Mr. White is alright so far, so I hope that he will keep alright. Tell Fannie that I find her gloves very useful indeed, especially on the running parade at 7 a.m., as it is very cold indeed down here, the ground has been white with frost every morning and you have to be very careful that you don't slip down on those paths in the Park. The people who live in the houses round the park must bless us, for you can guess what

it must be like having a whole company of soldiers stamping round the paths with Army boots on.

I am afraid that I have given up all hope of Christmas leave now, as half our platoon have been warned for a draft to-day and my turn will come next; I expect that it will be on Monday or sometime next week, but of course you may be home for a week or two after that, but you are allowed no more leave after you have once been warned, so will let you know as soon as I hear anything.

With very best love to all
from

Clifford.

P.S. If I had not been "W" this time I should have been warned to-day.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
18. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your letters quite safely to-day. You will, I expect, be glad to hear that I have thrown my live bomb quite safely to-day, and shall not have to throw any more live ones home here. We had to march out five miles to a place

called "Woodlands" to throw them, the whole of the 3rd. Batn. went with us, both our bands were there; there was nearly every Devon man in Granby and Raglan Barracks, so you can guess about how many we were. I expect they would have reached from "Huntley" to "Cole's Barn", and I expect that Francie would have liked to have walked by our drummers, they can play and no mistake! I must say that I enjoyed it very much, and most likely we shall have to go twice more this week. I saw Mark Knight there but was not able to speak to him.

We had a fine Church Parade on Sunday, the same amount went as went to Woodlands to-day. H Company formed up at Granby and marched down on Raglan Square to meet the rest there and while we were being formed up, the bands stood in a ring and played Hymns, and then they played us to and from St. Aubyn's Church and we had a proper Morning Service, which was very nice. In the afternoon I went for a walk on the Hoe with a fellow in our hut who comes from Exeter and who knows Mr. Treneer very well, and in the evening we went to St. Andrew's, where Mr. Moreton⁴¹ plays, and had a splendid service which I enjoyed very much indeed.

On Saturday, I went to the Guildhall with the organist of Ashwater and heard the R.M. Band and it was very nice, Mr. Moreton also played the organ a bit, which was alright.

You will be very surprised to hear that Harry Skinner⁴² is down here, I think it frightened us both when we met, he has

been in Hospital most of his time and does not look as if the Army has done him any good, he does look bad.

Must stop as it is closing time.

With love

Clifford.

P.S. Please excuse this as I am rather rushed for time.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
19. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

Your nice letters arrived quite safely to-day. I am very sorry to hear that so many of you are feeling poorly, but hope that you will all be quite well by Christmas.

We have had our exam on bombing to-day but shall not know for a day or so how we have got on. I don't expect that I have passed, because I don't get on too well with the throwing but got on fairly well with the other part. It was a written exam, so I was very careful to only put down the words that I was sure of. We had to explain fully on paper the different bombs and rifle bombs, I think I wrote as much as anybody, as I did not finish until some time after all the rest, but shall not be very disappointed if I do not pass. I have not been warned for a draft yet and don't think that those who have

been already warned will go now until after Christmas.

I had a lovely parcel from Mrs White yesterday; I do think that it is kind of her to trouble about me now, I should think that she would have enough to think of in sending to Mr. White without thinking of me. She sent me a cake, some buns and mince-pies, two boxes of chocolates and a pasty.

There are rumours about Christmas leave here but I do not think for one minute that I shall get any, if I don't, will there be any chance of anyone coming down one evening or Saturday? Mrs White is coming down one day to see Mrs. Risdon and is coming out here, so I hope that I shall get a chance to see her.

Am afraid that this is all now so

With very best love to all, and hoping that all will soon be well

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
20. 12. 16.

My Dear Mammie and All,

Your nice letters arrived quite safely to-day. I shall not have time to write much to-night as we have been out on night operations for over an hour and a half. We have been on sentry duty and I enjoyed it very much.

I had a large box from Auntie Millie⁴³ to-day but shall not have time to write and thank her to-night so will write to-morrow instead.

We are going out to Woodlands again to-morrow for the rest to throw their live bombs that have not already done so, and have to get everything ready to-night as we shall have breakfast at 7 a.m. and start at 8 a.m. I have not been warned yet, but they have started on 12 section to-day.

I hope that everyone is feeling better; am glad to say that I am quite well.

I am afraid that I must stop now but will try and write more next time.

With very best love to all

Clifford.

.

Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

21. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I did not receive any letter from you to-day, so hope that no one is any worse.

It, came to my turn to be warned for a draft to-day, but you must not worry at all as I shall be quite alright and may not go for a week or two yet. The drafts that are warned are 3, 4 and 5; the 3rd. will go first, but not for a day or two, and I am picked out for what they call a "Waiting Man" for No. 3 draft. That is to take the place of any man who might be taken ill who is going in that draft, but if I am not wanted, as most likely I shall not be, as there are eight of us waiting men I shall be in No. 5 draft and that one won't go for a week or so. We have, I hear, to do a lot more training over there.

I have written to Auntie Millie to-night, but do not know her number as she did not write a letter with her parcel, so will you please put the number and send it on and please will you mind looking it over to see that it is alright.

I am sorry, but can't stay any longer now as I have been taking my time over Auntie Millie's letter, but will write more to-morrow, if all's well.

With very best love to all from

Clifford.

Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

22. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received the letters quite safely to-day and had one from Auntie Millie as well.

I have just had orders that the 3rd. and 5th. drafts are off to France to-morrow, and I am very glad that I am in either of those as the 4th. is off to Salonica. Shall not have time to write much as we have to pack everything to-night. Will let you know as soon as I can whether we go or no.

The card is a friend of mine and he has just given it to me, but I shall not be able to take it with me.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

23. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I hope that by this time you will have had my P.C. to

say that I did not go to-day, you ought to have had it Sunday morning. I was warned last night (Friday) that I was going with the 3rd. and 5th. drafts for France on Saturday morning. There were about 300 in the draft and we marched down to the station with the band and with deafening cheers from the big crowds that saw us off. When we got down to the station the waiting men were told to fall out, as they were not wanted, and we had to stand on the platform and watch them all go off. It was not at all a nice job to watch all your special friends go and you not able to go with them. I would have given anything to have gone with them as nearly all my friends were there and even poor Mark Knight, and he was so glad when he heard that I was going with him. I don't know when I shall go now, it may be to-morrow or next week, so you must expect to hear that I am over there any time now.

The badge is my own cap badge which I have worn ever since I have been up and I am sending it home especially for Mammie to keep.

I will let you know what is happening as soon as I can.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
24. 12. 16.

My Dear Mammie and All,

I received your letters quite safely this morning, also the nice registered parcel which arrived quite safely. I had to go down to Raglan and get it myself and also sign for it.

I was not sent away to-day either, although I very much expected it. Last night at 6 p.m. they gave orders that the 4th. draft was to be off in the morning, and my being a waiting man for the 3rd. had nothing to do with it, but all the same I had to hold myself in readiness in case I was wanted, but as it happened I was not. I expect now that I shall be almost certain for the next draft, but don't know when that will be, as they only tell you the night before, that you are off in the morning. All this draft was the rest of those that have been training together and there are only a few of us left now and they are the waiting men for the drafts that are gone. I do hope that those that are left will go together or else I shall be sure to go with strangers and I should not like that so well. It is a rotten job, I can tell you, saying goodbye to all those that you have been with all through and seeing them off. It was a very small lot formed up on Raglan Square for Church Parade to-day, compared with last Sunday, there was only about a

quarter of H Company, all the rest having gone yesterday or this morning.

There are stacks of parcels come in to-day and I don't know what they will do with them as nearly all of them are for those that went to-day. That organist of Ashwater has gone to-day and he had got his wife down here to spend Christmas with, so I expect that they are very disappointed.

I expect that Francie would have liked to have gone to Church with us to-day and heard the band. While we were waiting on Raglan Square the band marched up and down playing like Church bells and then afterwards hymns and when we were all ready they played us down to the Garrison Church and then they played for the whole of the Service. I am going to try to go to Mr. Moreton's Church to-night, if I can, but when you are warned you never know when they are going to have a Roll Call, they don't let you go too far out of their sight.

I hope that you will all have a very happy Christmas, you must not trouble about my not being there for I will make up for that when I do come home. I shall think a lot about you to-morrow.

With very best love

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
25. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your nice letters quite safely this morning. I have heard nothing more about my going away yet, but I don't expect that I shall be here for another Sunday, so don't expect that Daddie will come down. I only wish that I could say for sure that I should be here next week, so that I could see him. Most likely another two drafts will go to-morrow, but up to now I have nothing to do with them, but will let you know as soon as I am told off for another.

I went down to Mr. Moreton's Church last night and had a lovely service which I enjoyed very much. We also had a very nice Service at Church Parade to-day, while we were being formed up the band played all Christmas hymns and then played us down to St. Aubyn's Church, I would much rather go there than to the Garrison Church.

I hope that you have had a very happy Christmas, I have got on quite alright. One of the huts was decorated very nicely and we went there for our meals. They gave us a most splendid dinner, we had goose and beef with plum pudding afterwards and you could have as much as you wanted, with plenty of apples, oranges and nuts and then they gave us mince-pies for tea. Of course it is not a bit like a Christmas at

home, but it is a great deal better than I thought it would be. They told us that at the next Christmas none of us would be in the Army and that they did not think that they would have to send any more men to France after February, so that sounds all right, doesn't it? I only hope that it will be true.

With very best love from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
26. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have had no letter to-day so far, but may get one to-night when I get back, like I did that day when Fannie wrote, only I forgot to tell you.

I have heard nothing more about going yet but the 7th. draft is off to-morrow, I don't know if I shall have anything to do with it or no. I don't think you need worry about my going anywhere else but France as every draft so far has gone there.

You will be glad to hear that I spent a very pleasant evening last night; I went down to the Sailors' Rest and had a very nice time. They have given us a very easy time to-day, we had no 7 a.m. parade, but started at 9 a.m. and finished for

the day at 10.30. but shall have to go through it to-morrow, expect.

I am afraid that there is no more to say now.

With very best love

from

Clifford.

.

Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

27. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and All,

Your nice letters arrived quite safely to-day and I was very glad to get them.

I have heard nothing more about going yet and I know pretty well for certain that I shall not go to-morrow (Thursday), as I have been told to-night that I am marching to Woodlands while the others, who have not already done so, throw their live bomb, so I expect that I shall be on trench digging or something like that with the others that threw their live with me. They sent away another draft this morning, they only heard last night that they were off to-day. I wish that I knew for certain which day I was going, so that it would be alright about Daddie coming down, because I should be wild if

I were here for next week-end and not being able to let you know in time that I was still about spoilt the chance of his coming down. You will see that my address has been altered a bit, I am now in the married quarters of Granby Barracks, No.9, B. Block, is the only alteration. It is very much more comfortable in there than in a hut, there are only five of us in one room instead of thirty in one hut.

I am afraid that I can spare no more time to write any more to-night as I have to get back and get all my things ready for Woodlands to-morrow.

With very best love

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
29. 12. 16.

My dear Mammie and Daddie,

I have been told to-day that I am for the next draft that leaves, but I shall be here for Saturday and most likely Sunday, so shall expect to see Daddy to-morrow, if fine.

With love

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

30. 12. 16.

My dear Mummie,

Received letters quite safely to-day. I have met
Daddy quite alright and he is staying for Sunday, I am glad to
say. We have been to the Guildhall this afternoon and enjoyed
it very much, but only wished that you had been there.

Please excuse this card but am writing it by very
bad light.

With very best love from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

1. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received your letters quite safely to-day. I went
sick to-day for the first time but only got Medicine and Duty,
so when we got back from the Doctor's the Sergeant Major made
us put on our full pack and march off to Woodlands after the
rest, and there were only five of us to go, so I think he

might have given us a job home here instead. When we did get out there we found that they had gone and gone back another way as we had to about turn and come back as well, so it was like a ten mile march right off, but we did no trench work, of which I was very glad, and am glad to say that I feel none the worse for it. We arrived back at 2.15 p.m. and then they had the neck to make us do P.T. until 4.30 which I think was a bit thick. You will be glad to hear, I expect, that I have been struck off this next draft and have to wait until I get my other glasses and they don't expect them to come for ten days or more, so I don't think that you need worry about my going this week.

I have just received your parcel of socks, they are lovely and thank you very much for sending them so soon. Would Mammie be so kind, when she goes to Exeter, to get a waistcoat out of my box and send it on, as I think that I shall find it useful when I go across, and I suppose that every day that I am kept back is one nearer peace, but I hope that I shall see France, if I don't see any fighting.

Just fancy poor Uncle Jim being out at Crownhill. I have been through there twice to-day on my way to and from Woodlands, as you go through it on the way. I shall not be able to go out and see him until Saturday, but will do all I can to go out then.

I am very glad that Daddie reached home safely. I expect he told you how very much I enjoyed the "Messiah", the

only thing that spoilt it was that you were not there.

You must please excuse this, as I am writing it on a bed board by candle light, but hope that I shall have time to write properly for a day or two, as I shall not have to be ready every night for the draft in the morning.

Again thanking you very much for the socks and the nice time with Daddie.

With love

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
2. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received the letter with the photos and also the one with the "Menthols" by the same post this morning. Thank you very much indeed, it is kind of you to think and trouble so much about me. I have found relief from the Menthols already, so hope soon to be alright. I meant to have written you a proper letter to-night, but they gave us an extra parade after tea to-night and are going to every night from now I think, which will take away most of my writing time I am afraid, but will do more to-morrow if I can. Again thanking you all very much, I remain, with very best love, Clifford.

Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

3. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Your letters arrived here quite safely to-day and thank you all very much. I have put on a pair of your socks to-day for the first time and they couldn't fit better than they do. I can understand now why the soldiers praise them so, unless any one had tried the difference between the Army socks and yours they could never have thought that there could be such a difference. It is like walking on velvet after sandpaper. It is most likely that the draft that I was for goes to-morrow morning, I am afraid that I do not trouble how long they keep me at home now, as I shall have to go with strangers when I do go, so I have no wish to go with any particular draft, but shall soon pick up friends again, though one of the waiting men has had to take my place in the draft.

I am afraid that this extra evening parade does waste my writing time in the evenings and they have put on an extra quarter of an hour on to the morning, so that makes us on the go from 8.45 a.m. till 12.45 a.m. which makes a pretty long morning of it. They say that we have got a new Colonel and it is he that is bucking things up a bit, if it is so, I hope that he will jolly soon shift. I do think that they are serving poor Uncle Jim badly, but you can't expect anything

else from the Army, I shall do all I can to go and see him on Saturday, that is if he is still there, if only we had known as Daddie and I could have gone out and seen him on Sunday after-noon.

I shall have to close now as time is growing short.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

4. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Your letters arrived quite safely this morning. They did not send the draft away this morning after all, and they don't expect to go now until after Sunday, but of course there is no knowing, but I know very well that I shall not have to go until I get my Army glasses and I shall take good care that I do not use them unless I am obliged to, as I am afraid that I have not got much faith in the skill of Army Doctors. They have been paying up the back slack down here today and I had 11/- so am sending you a P.O. 5/-. I am sorry that it is so small, but thought that it might go a little way towards Gladys' glasses. So you see that my back payment

from the time I joined until now was just 4/-. Some of those that have just come back from France picked up about £7 to £8, as that is something to look forward to, isn't it? We go to Woodlands again to-morrow, but I shan't mind it this time as I am feeling ever so much better, the Menthols have nearly cured my cold, I am glad to-say.

I have had a letter from Mrs White to say how sorry she was that she missed me, will you please tell her when you go to Exeter how very disappointed I was that I did not see her?

You must not expect much of a letter to-morrow, but still I will do what I can, only if we go to Woodlands we shall be sure to get in a fearful muck and then we shall have to get it all spotless for the Adjutant's parade on Saturday morning.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
5. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Your letters arrived quite safely to-day and am glad to hear that Gladys is back again alright.

We have been to Woodlands to-day and I must say that I enjoyed myself very much, to start with, my feet did not get at all sore with your socks, which makes a lot of difference. The band played us out and back and most of the time we were out there, which was very nice. We did trench digging and it was not at all bad, I did not even get a blister on my hands, (but it wasn't because I didn't work though). It had rained hard the night before which made the ground fairly soft. We went through Crown Hill going and coming back so I looked out for Uncle Jim, as there were a lot of S.L.I. about, but did not see him, but hope to to-morrow anyway if it is fine.

The draft that I was for have had their final orders to-night that they are off to France to-morrow morning at 9.15 a.m., so suppose that I shall be here for a day or two longer yet as I have not yet heard anything about the glasses.

I am afraid that I wish that Daddie was coming down this week instead of last, as I am feeling so much better and more like myself, so that I should feel like showing him about, but must wait until next time I suppose.

We arrived back from Woodlands about 4 p.m. and they gave us nothing more to do for the rest of the evening, so we were able to give our stuff a good clean up, ready for to-morrow, and it wanted it too after a day at Woodlands.

I am afraid that I must stop now as time is drawing short.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

8. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie,

I received your very nice long letter yesterday and also the letters this morning. I have been warned to-day for next draft for France. I get my glasses to-morrow.

I ought to think myself lucky for they are sending away two drafts, one to France and one to Salonica, and I have been put in the France draft. You must please excuse this letter as we have been to Woodlands to-day and have to clean up everything for C.O's inspection to-morrow. I got on quite alright on Saturday. Uncle Jim came in here Sunday and I saw him for

quite a long time.

Can stay no longer now, but will write more to-morrow
if possible.

With love

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks.
Devonport.
9. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received both letter and waistcoat quite safely
this morning, and thank you very much. I am told that I am
in the 6th draft and I think that we are pretty safe for
France. The 5th. draft is for Salonica and they will most
likely go next Saturday or Sunday, so don't expect that we
shall go until after then. I see that Harry Skinner is in
Salonica draft, but have not had a chance to ask him how he
likes it. I have been down and got my glasses this afternoon
and can see quite alright with them, but shall not use them
until I am obliged to. We have had an inspection to-day by a
lot of Majors &c. and have had to drill in front of them, also
gas helmet drill to see if everybody could get them on quickly
enough. To-morrow we are to be inspected by the C.O. so that

has meant a long evening of cleaning again to-night as it does not do to be pulled up by these big men, as there is always C.B. behind it then, and I am sure I do not want that.

We had a very nice day at Woodlands on Monday, digging trenches; it rained and hailed part of the time but I did not get at all wet, and must say that I enjoyed it very much. I do not dislike trench digging at all. I am very glad to say that my cough and cold have quite gone and I am feeling quite myself again.

Am afraid time is getting short so shall have to stop.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks.

Devonport.

10. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Thank you very much for the letters which came to-day. I think that it was very kind of you to stop to write when you were so busy with the treat. I expect that you are very glad that it is all over, and I hope that no one did too much. I got on alright at C.O's inspection to-day and am to say that I was not checked for anything. We have had

to hand in all our kit to-day, so now we have got nothing to clean any brass with, and not even a brush to clean our boots with, so that does not look as if they are going to keep us home here much longer, but the Salonica draft does not go till Sunday so I expect that we shall go on Monday. We have had gas helmet drill most of the afternoon, we had to keep them on for one hour without taking them off at all and do bombing and trench storming with them on, and it was some game I can tell you. We are marching out to Woodlands again to-morrow, so I hope, it will keep fine; I expect that we shall do either trench digging or trench storming, but I hope that it will be digging.

There was a bit of a fire down the street here to-night in a shop; it caused, a lot of excitement but I don't think that there was, much damage done. Two fire engines were there.†

Shall not be able to stay any longer now as I have to get all my marching order together for to-morrow.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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† Western Morning News – Thursday 11th Jan 1917. FIRE AT DEVONPORT – A Fire was discovered in the basement of Messrs. Underwood's grocery shop, Fore-street, Devonport, about six o'clock last evening. P.C. Warren, who was on duty in Fore-street, was informed of the outbreak, and promptly proceeded to the premises, which he found securely locked. A telephone message to Ker street Fire Station resulted in Inspector W. Irish, and Fireman-Sergt. May, P.S. Gully, and other members of the fire brigade, with the motor fire engine arriving on the scene with all despatch. A hose was attached to an hydrant in Princes-street, and the windows in the basement in Fore-street and Lambert-ope having been broken, the firemen were able to play upon the flames which were soon extinguished. It appears that the gas pipe was ablaze, and the door just above had caught fire. The shop door was eventually opened, and the gas turned off from the meter, all further danger being thus averted. A gas-ring in the basement had been in use during the morning, but the gas had been turned off. How the fire occurred is unexplained. A large quantity of provisions was in the cellar, but the damage done was not great. The outbreak caused a huge crowd of people to assemble outside the shop. The prompt discovery undoubtedly prevented a very serious fire.

Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

11. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Thank you very much for your letters which came today with the photo of the Church. We did not go to Woodlands after all, but they took us for a march about fourteen miles, all round Devonport and Plymouth, and we came out on the Plympton road (which we cycle on in coming down here) and then back through Plymouth again. It was some march, but I enjoyed every minute of it, although it upset some of them, fourteen fell out altogether and there were a good many who had had quite enough of it by the time they did get back, but am glad to say that I did not find it at all too much for me.

I have not heard when we go yet, but the Salonica draft goes away on Sunday. I saw Harry Skinner to-night and he says that he would much rather have gone to France, but shall try to make the best of it now.

I am very glad the treat went off so well, just fancy Daddie making a slide of my photo, I should like to have seen it very much. Tell Daddie not to break it before I do come home, and I hope like Philip that it won't be much longer before we do come home.

Am afraid that this is all for to-night so will stop.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,

Devonport.

12. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Thank you very much for the letters which came quite safely this morning. It seems as though I shall spend the 16th in France, as we have heard that most likely we go on Monday. I should like to go over and see Jesse very much next Sunday, but don't think that I shall be able to, because if we do go on Monday I shall have all my time in on Sunday afternoon and evening packing and getting ready. We have got to go on Adjutant's parade to-morrow morning with everything cleaned, but I don't know how they can expect us to, when they have taken away our cleaning gear. I shall have to borrow some if I can, and see what I can do, so shall not be able to stay any longer now, but will write more to-morrow if I can.

With very best love from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks,
Devonport.
13. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Thank you all so very much for the lovely parcel which arrived quite safely this morning with the letter. I think that it is much too good of you all, and I only wish that I could write and thank you all separately, but am afraid that I should not have time for that, so you must please excuse my writing to everybody in one. I think that the socks are lovely and the soap will be most useful. They tell me you can't take too much soap and you would be surprised what a difference it makes to your marching if you rub soap on your socks before you start; you can walk three times as far before your feet get sore. The buns and chocolate I am enjoying very much indeed, and if we do go on Monday I shall be very glad to put the rest in my haversack to eat on the way, but we have not heard for certain if we do go then, and they won't let us know till the last minute, but the Salonica draft which Harry Skinner is in goes to-morrow morning. I had a lovely box of chocolates and a handkerchief from Mrs White. I do think that it is kind of her to send me when she has to send to Mr. White as well.

I just managed to pass on parade to-day, but I was not as clean as I was lest week, and I don't see how they can

expect you to be when they have taken away your cleaning gear. They promised every one that was pulled up to-day seven days' C. B., so I was jolly glad that I got through.

I have just seen Jesse, and he does not look very well, he was just off to the Doctor's and called in on his way. I shall try to go over to Saltash to-morrow if we are not off on Monday, but if we are I shall not be able to, as we shall have to be in for roll call at 6 p.m. Sunday evening. I am afraid that I must ask you to excuse this, as I have written it in a great hurry.

So again thanking you all very much indeed and with very best love

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks.

Devonport.

15. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I expect that you will be glad to hear that I have not gone to-day (Monday) but we are expecting very much to go to-morrow, but the orders have not come out yet. I have received all the nice letters to-day with the safety razor blades, and

thank you very much indeed. I was very sorry that I did not write yesterday, and I hope that you have not been worrying and thinking that I had gone across. As there were no orders for to-day I went over and saw Jesse, and had a very nice time. I got over there at about 4 p.m. and had tea. In the evening Jesse was taking the Service at the little Mission Church by the Ferry at Saltash, so I went there, and it is a dear little place. After Service Jesse was good enough to come right over to Devonport with me, and took me into a place and gave me a lovely hot supper which I enjoyed very much. Afterwards I saw him off at Devonport Station and I got in just before 10.

We have been out to Woodlands again to-day and they took us out past where you get on the Ferry for Saltash and brought us back through Plymouth which made a long route march out of it. I got on quite alright but it was not quite so nice to-day, as we had no band and it does make such a difference on a long march. We started away about 7.45 a.m. and did not get back until about 2 p.m. and then they had the neck to give us P.T. this afternoon, and gas helmet drill to-night. The Salonica draft that Harry Skinner is in did not go on Sunday after all, and we are told that we may go to France before they are off now, although they are the 5th. draft and we the 6th. He asked me to be sure to remember him to you all the next time I wrote home; he does not seem to mind going out there at all now, but I am very glad that I am not for there as well. I am very glad to hear that Philip is still quite

alright. I often wonder if I shall come across any of the old boys out there, but I don't expect that it is very likely, especially if they keep on putting off our going, but I am afraid I don't mind so much now that I have missed that draft which most of my platoon were in, but you may depend that they won't leave us home here very much longer. I do hope that it will all be over this year. I very much think it will, and I also think that they are going to start very soon out in France, by all accounts; if we don't do anything this year I am afraid we shan't do much afterwards, as we seem to be sending out every possible man, and the only thing that they will be able to look to, will be those that are coming up to the age, and they won't always be able to keep on coming out, so I hope that we shall get on alright.

You need not worry about getting my field address before you write to me after I am gone, as the Army will always forward them on, as they know where each one is, so until you do get it, it will be quite alright for you to send the letters down here as usual. It is one of the orderly corporal's jobs to re-address anything and send on to those that are gone on draft.

I must ask you please to excuse this letter, as I am writing it on my knee, and by a very poor light. I did not go down to the Y.M. to write this as I am waiting to hear the orders about the draft, and I am glad to say that we have just

heard that the draft does not go again to-morrow, so shall spend the 16th. in England after all.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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Granby Barracks.

Devonport.

16. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received no letters from you to-day, and must say that I did not expect any, as I expect you thought that I went across on Monday, having no letter from me Monday morning. We have heard no more about going, and I waited in till about 7 p.m. and no orders have come up yet, so it looks very much as if we are here for to-morrow also. I had a very nice letter from Auntie Millie and a P.C. from Annie⁴⁴ and Daisy⁴⁵, and also one from my Godson, but shall not have time to answer them to-night. I expect that you have been having the same sort of weather as we have got, snow three or four inches thick, but it has made no difference to the drill; you can just guess what it was like doing P.T. in the snow and trench storming with the trenches half full of it. I am afraid that this is all that I can stop for now, but will write more to-morrow if I can.

With very best love to all from

Clifford.

Granby Barracks.

Devonport.

17. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received both your nice letters this morning, and thank you very much. I think that it was very kind of you to trouble about writing again on the chance of my getting one on my birthday. How kind it was of Mrs. Pook⁴⁶ to send me that P.O. I am sending her a card to-night to thank her for it; I would have written a short letter, but shall not have time to-night. I expect you will be sorry to hear that I am off to-morrow morning. We leave here at 7.30 a.m., we are going to the base at Rouen. I am very glad in one way that we are off, as now I know that I am safe from Salonica, and I ought to be very thankful that I had so many more weeks home here than the rest of my platoon.

Will you please thank Auntie Bobbie⁴⁷ very much for her nice letter when you are writing to her again, as I don't know when I shall get the chance. I don't expect that I shall be able to write so often now, but shall do so as often as I can, and I shall not expect you to write every day now, but of course I shall always look forward to their coming when you do write, it does not seem as if you are so far away from home when you get letters fairly often. I shall be

looking forward now to the day when I shall come back again,
and I hope that it is not very far off. I should like to
have written more but have to go and pack up, and it is no
small job I can tell you, so

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

19. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I arrived over here quite safely this morning at
1.30.a.m. I am glad to say that the trip in the steamer did
not upset me in the least, although it did a great many.

We are in a rest camp now & may be for a day or two before
we go on. We had the Mayoress' tea at Exeter & very glad I
was to have it; I am sending on the card for you to keep.

Am afraid that this is all I can stop for now, so,

With very best love

Clifford.

No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

20. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

You will be glad to hear that I am getting on quite alrightly & am quite happy. We are still in the rest camp under canvas and up to our eyes in mud. The men have been calling each other "mud-larks", and I am sure that they are not far wrong. Please tell Fanny that I should be very glad if she would be kind enough to knit me a scarf or helmet one day when she has got time, as it is very cold out here. I think that the bread we get out here is some of the best I have ever tasted, it is a great deal better than what we have been having at home lately. They give us some splendid concerts here in the Y. M. C. A, & I enjoy them very much as it makes a nice break. The country here is very pretty, but it does not come up to dear old "Devon". Hoping that you are all quite well and with very best love to all,

Clifford.

No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

21. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

We have been shifted from the rest camp today, and have arrived at the base quite safely. I have met several of the old Platoon, but a good many have been shifted further on. It is very nice country here and very pretty; but very cold and not half so muddy as it was at the camp. We are under canvas the same though. I am glad to say that I am feeling quite well and happy, no hope that you are not worrying at all. There is a Y.M.C.A, and a C.A. Hut here, so it is quite alright in that way. The people out here seem very pleased to see us; they all come running and wave as we go by. I cannot stay any longer now but will write more tomorrow if I can.

With very best love to all,

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

22. 1. 17.

My Dear Mammie and All.

I am still getting on alrightly and am quite well and feel fine. I have been seen by the doctor today and am glad to say that I have been found quite alright. Have you heard how Jesse is getting on? I expect he knows the place where I am, I have not met any more of the old boys yet; but I am expecting to as we get farther on. There is only a very little snow lying about here, and it has not been so cold today either. We have been served out with sheep-skin coats, so ought to be able to keep warm now. There is a camp of R.Es, next to us so I have been looking about to see if I could see Mr. White anywhere about, but I do not expect that he is here.

With love to all,

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

23. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am glad to say that I am still quite all right and feel very well, and hope very much that you are all the same. I came across one of the old platoon, a corporal, today; he was in the same hut as I was at Tregantle: it was nice to see him again seemed more like old times. We have had another fall of snow today, which has made it very cold. I think that it is a lot colder out here than it is in England, so I shall be glad when it gets a little warmer. There is a cinema here in the camp just to make things a little lively; but I have not been in it yet, only for lectures in the daytime. I hope that you have been receiving my letters safely, for I know how anxious you would be if you did not get them. I have been able to write just a few lines each night, and shall do so as long as I can.

With very best love to all,

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

24. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All.

I am glad to say that I am still getting on quite alrightly, and manage to enjoy myself. We have had it very cold here today, even the water in my water-bottle froze, so you can guess what it was like. I wish Fannie knew what a comfort her gloves were. I do not know what I should do without them; I even sleep with them on, and they have shown no signs wear yet. They seem to be very pleased with us over here, and call us "The Sunny Devons". We tell them that we get more sun before breakfast in Devon than they get all day here, and so it seems at this time of the year. I am afraid that this is all for tonight, so will stop.

With very best love to all,

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.
Rouen.
France.
25. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All.

I am afraid that I shall not have time to write much tonight; but I thought that I must just send you a line, to let you that I am still quite all right and feel very well, I am glad to say. Have you heard how Arthur is getting on lately? I do not expect that I am anywhere near him, but I should like to come across him, as it makes a lot of difference if you see some-one you know now and again. Shall have to close now,

With very best love to all,

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.
Rouen.
France.
28. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still here and quite well. I do hope that you have not got it so cold at home as we have it here, it is something fearful. I shall never grumble at the cold in England after this, and shall be very - thankful when it gets a little warmer. I went to the Early Service

the C.A. Hut this morning at 8 a.m. and enjoyed it very indeed; we also had Church Parade at the same hut and I am now looking forward to the Evening Service at 6,30. p,m. I am eagerly expecting a letter from you each night now, as I should think that by this time some might have got over here, as up to now I have not received any.

Hoping that everyone is quite well and with very best love to all
from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.
Rouen.
France.
30. 1. 17.

My dear Mammie and All.

I am very glad to say that last I have received a letter from you. I had one yesterday written on the 21st, and one today written on the 26th, so you can tell how glad I was to get them and to find out that you were all alright. I expect that we shall be shifted a bit further up the line soon, as we have been passed out today. This is the place where Mark Knight was, but his draft was shifted up a week or so ago, so I have just missed seeing him but expect I shall come across him further up. It is very kind of you to trouble about sending out a parcel, but you need not worry about what to send, as anything would be a change to bully-beef and biscuits. Am afraid that I cannot stop any longer now, so will close,

With very best love to all,
from
Clifford.

P.S. Please tell them "Yes" from me. C.W.

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No. 2. I.B.D.
Rouen.
France.
2. 2. 17.

My Dear Mammie and All,

I am very glad to say that I have just received another letter from you dated Jan: 29th. This is the third that I have had up to now. I have not been shifted yet, but expect that I shall be in a day or so. Just fancy them sending poor Uncle Jim to India after all. I do feel sorry for him, but hope that he will get back again safely. You say in your letter that Mr Harris⁴⁸ has been buried by his son who is a chaplain. Do you mean "Reader Harris? If so, I can hardly fancy that he is gone at last. How will Luton get on now? Is Cecil Weston⁴⁹ over here anywhere? Because I am sure that it was he I have seen out here, but did not get a chance to go over to where he was standing to ask him, neither could I catch his eye but all the same I am certain, that it was he. Did you get the letter that I sent with the little card which I had given me from the Mayoress of Exeter⁵⁰, with the tea and bun that we had given us when we passed through? I should like to keep it; I sent it with one of the first letters that I sent dated, Jan: 19th or

20th. I am glad to say that I am alright for socks up to now, but please tell Fannie that my gloves are beginning to give out, and I should be very glad, when she has time, if she could make me another pair, if it is not troubling her too much, as it is not quite warm enough to go without them yet. There is a very nice little service in the C.A. Hut every night, which lasts about five or ten minutes, and I enjoy it very much. They have five or six hymns, and you will be glad to know that I played for them tonight and am going to tomorrow if I am still here. The chaplain comes from "Bowley" Exeter, I expect that Daddy knows where it is; it is about a couple of miles from Exeter, only a little church, but very pretty; I have cycled by it some dozens of times, and am longing to see the time when I shall do so again. I hope that we shall not be shifted before Sunday, pa that I can go to the 8.0.a.m. service. The Sunday Services here are very nice, but I have not found a church like our own, and shall be very glad when I can go there with you all again, and hope that that time is not as far off as we think. I think that I shall have to close now, and hoping that you are all quite well,

I remain,

With very beet love,

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

4. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I received the scarf and letter of Jan: 30th, together, and quite safely last night (Feb: 3rd), and I am sure I thank you all very much indeed, for it will be most useful, as it has not got any warmer yet. I am still here and have heard nothing more about shifting on any further yet, but of course I might be moving any day now. I went to the 8.0.a.m. service at the C.A. Hut this morning and enjoyed it very much, and am looking forward now to the service here tonight. I should like to be able to play the hymns in Sunday School this afternoon, but I suppose that I must wait until another time comes when I shall be home again. I do hope that you are all keeping well, as I am glad to say that I am quite alright and happy. Must stop now,

With very best love to all,

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

7. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Have just received three letters from you dated Feb: 1st
2nd, & 3rd; and I thank you very much M I was very glad indeed to
get them I can tell you. I am still here, and am glad to say quite
well and happy but shall be happier still when I am able to get
back with you again. Am glad that Jesse is coming to see you, I
have asked at the C.A. Hut if they remembered him, but I think
that they have changed hands since then. I hope that the kiddies
will enjoy the lantern, and I should like to be there as well to
help Daddie, but tell him not to do too much. We are having it
very cold still here, and have had more snow again this week, but
am looking forward to the time when the weather gets a bit warmer.
Am afraid this is all that I can stop for now, so,

With very best love,

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.
Rouen.
France.
8. 2. 17.

My Dear Mammie and All.

I am glad to say that I have received another letter from you tonight, dated Feb: 4th; You must please excuse this very short letter tonight but I did not get back in time to write a longer one, so will see what I can do tomorrow. What do you think of the news now? It seems a bit brighter doesn't it? I hope that it will get brighter still soon. Am afraid I must close now.

With very best love to all,

from

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.
Rouen.
France.
10. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All.

I have received your letter dated Feb: 5th; quite safely and also the one which you sent through the C.A. manager. His name is Mr. Lawrey⁵¹, he is not a C.A. Officer, and does not know Jesse, he is very nice; I am afraid that he took a great deal of trouble to find me, and says that I may come in their little room at the back of the hut, as often as I like. He has asked me to

have tea with him today. He saw me in the hut this afternoon just going to write to you and he made me come into their little room where I am writing this, and supplied me with all materials, which I think is so very kind of him. Would you please write a little letter and thank him? His address is:- Mr.W.C.lawrey,No.2. I.B.D A.P.O. S.15 B.E.F. France. I think that he would like it if you did. It is so very kind of him to take so much trouble about me. Thank you very much for sending off such a nice parcel, I will write and let you know as soon as I receive it, but I hope that you will not send any more now that things are so scarce. I only hope that you will be able to get along alright, I should not like to think that you are sending me out things that you wanted at home I know very well that you would do if you thought that I wanted anything, but you must not worry about me at all, as I am quite alright and happy. I am very glad the lantern went off so nicely and I should like very much to have seen the new slides which Francie and Kennie painted, but I shall expect Francie to show the lantern especially for me when I come home, so tell him to keep the condenser well dusted, and plenty of carbide in stock, as every day that goes by brings my home-coming nearer (D.V.) Please thank Kennie very much for his very nice letter and tell him I think that he is a very clever boy to write such a nice long one and I shall have to get him to give me some lessons on letter-writing when I get back. Tell Joan I think her way of catching birds is very good, and I really think I must try and catch some Germans in the same way, so if I get back with a big "Iron Cross" she will know how I got it. I expect that Murlie is very glad to

be able to start her cookery again, she would be useful here in showing the army cooks what to do, for I think that a few of them need some lessons on cooking. Have you heard from Arthur lately? I do not think that he is anywhere near here, but I should like to have his address next time you write as I should just like to send him a few lines one day when I can find time. Please ask Gladys if she would be kind enough to do me a photo of our family group, as I have not got one, and should very much like to have a look at you all sometimes while I am out here, I have been meaning to ask for one for a long time, but am sorry to say that it has slipped my memory each time I have written. We have heard nothing more about going up the line yet, but shall not be long now I expect. I should not be surprised to hear that we were off any day now, but if things go on as they seem to be going, I think that we shall soon be on line for home, or at least I hope so, don't you? I am looking forward to the 8.0.a.m. Service tomorrow morning, but I am sorry to say that the chaplain has been taken ill this week, but they have got some-one else to take his place for tomorrow I think, I expect that Fannie would like to see that little chapel here, it is a dear little place, and is called St Oswald's Military Chapel. They do have such services here, and I do enjoy them so very much. I started this letter before tea, and am now spending the evening here in the little room at the back of the hut. I think that it is most kind of Mr. Lawry, and I should be glad if you would send him just a line to thank him for his kindness. I really think that I must close now, or you will be tired of reading this letter, so hoping that everybody is quite well. With very best love to all,

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

12. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am very glad to say that I have received another two letters from you dated Feb: 6th and 7th. I ought to feel very lucky. I was told yesterday that when we go up the line I shall go to the 2nd Devons, but do not know when exactly that will be. You will be very sorry to hear that the chaplain I told you about, that came from Cowley, was taken very ill last week and died on Saturday evening. All the fellows that knew him are very sorry, as he was very much liked. I was looking forward to going to the 8.0.a.m. Service on Sunday morning, but got put on duty instead, so I am sorry to say I was unable to go, but I managed to go to the Evening Service, and enjoyed it very much. Another chaplain took the Service and afterwards Mr Lawry very kindly made me go in and have supper with them. weather here does not seem quite so cold as it was, but still it quite cold enough. The sun comes out very nicely in the middle of the day, but the air gets cold again in the evenings. I should be very glad if you could send me out a tin of ointment, and also some boric ointment. How do you think that things are going now? It looks a bit brighter now doesn't it? I hope it will continue so, when I think it will not be long before we shall all be coming home, I do not think I can stay any longer now, but I will write more when I get time. Hoping that all are well, and with very best love,

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

12. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to let you know that the parcel has arrived quite safely this evening and in splendid condition. I am sure that I thank you all very much indeed. It is more than kind of you. It came just after I had sent a letter to you, so I expect that you will get both together, and, having told you all the news then, I can only send a short note now, but I will let you how I enjoyed it tomorrow. Again thanking you all very much, and with very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

19. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am very sorry to have kept you all this week without a letter, and hope very much that you have not been worrying about it. The last that I sent was on Monday the 12th to thank for the very nice parcel, and since then I have not had a minute to spare, as we have been on the go every day from 4.30.a.m. to 7.30.p.m. I am glad to say that I have received all the letters that you have written

this week up to the 14th, so I ought to think myself very lucky. I also received Fannie's gloves quite safely, and will you please thank her very much indeed, as they were what I wanted more than anything else out here. I must say that it has been a record week in the way of letters for me, I have had one from Norman⁵²; one from Mrs. Knapp⁵³; one from Nibbie; and the one which you forwarded on, which was from that friend of mine called Staddon⁵⁴ that I told you about. There was also one from Auntie Millie, and one from Mrs White, in addition to one every day from you. I must first tell you how very much I enjoyed the parcels. It was such a nice change, and thing was lovely. I do not know when I enjoyed anything so much, and the box will be most useful to me when I get up the line. I was also very glad to see the nice socks, but I shall not expect any more parcels from you, now that flour is so scarce, as I am sure that you need it all at home. Thank you very much indeed for the photo of Mr and Mrs White. It was just what I wanted, but I should also like one of our family group very much one day when Gladys has time to do one. I was very glad to get Arthur's address, and I will drop him a line as soon as I get time to spare. I see that the lot that Arthur Sidey⁵⁵ is in has come out now, but I have not come across him, and now that they have been shifted I do not expect that I shall see him. I thought at first that I should have been able to go and see Charlie Bulley⁵⁶, but I was disappointed to find that his hospital is not in this part. What do you think of the news today? I hope that it will continue to be good now, but you will be surprised to learn that we get very little war news even out here, so I am glad when you put in a few lines about it. I was able to go to the 8.0.a.m.

service at the C.A. Hut this morning I am glad to say, and I enjoyed it very much, but I was not able to go to the Church Parade afterwards, as I was on duty, but there was a very nice Service in the evening, but we do miss the other chaplain very much. You ask me in one of your letters if I would like any writing paper. I should very much like to have a small writing pad that I could put in my pocket, because then I might be able to write a letter in the dinner hour when I am unable to do anything else, or not able to do as in the evening. I should also like to have a small pocket-book marked on each page with the days of the week, that is, if only you can get one easily, as one is apt to lose count of dates, e.t.c, but do not trouble about it if you cannot get one. The weather has got a lot⁺

+ The transcription stops here – it is unknown where the rest of this letter is

No. 2. I. B. D.

Rouen.

France.

22. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a line to let you know that I am still here, and I am glad to say, quite well. I have not had a letter since Monday, and I am told that we shall not get any for a few days, as all the mails are stopped, so I must look to get them all in a bunch in a day or two. I do not know if our letters are going out or not, so I am just sending you a letter on chance. I have just written to Auntie Millie so thank her for the very nice parcel that she sent. Perhaps Fannie would not mind just thanking her as well when next she writes to Bristol. It has got a lot warmer I am glad to say, but at the same it has got very muddy as well, I have not had time to write to Arthur yet, but I will to as soon as I can. I am afraid that I cannot stay any longer now, so I will close,

With very best love to all,

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

27. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am glad to say that I have been getting all your letters quite safely. I received four by this evening's mail. I was very afraid that you would have been worrying at not getting a letter

for so long, but it was impossible to find time to write at all last week. You must not worry now if you do not get a letter as often as you used to, but I will do my best to write as often as I can, if it is only a post-card. I was very glad to learn that Arthur had been on leave. I should to have been as well, but must wait for my turn until it is all over, which I hope will not be long. I expect that Mammie has-been able to enjoy Hymn 240 this week. We had "Hark, my soul" here on Sunday night, and I enjoyed it very much. I am sorry to learn about poor Louie⁵⁷ and Mr Butland⁵⁸. I do feel so sorry for Mr and Mrs Pook. I have had such a nice letter from Uncle Jess⁵⁹, with paper enclosed to write back, so I shall have to find time one day answer him. It was very kind of him to write, wasn't it? I am glad that I am still feeling quite well and happy, and I hope that you all the same. I should be very glad if you could manage to send me or two little brushes, as they would be most useful, but please do not worry about it if you cannot get them. You must please excuse this letter as I have had to write it in a great hurry, but I will write again as soon as I can. With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

28. 2. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a line to let you know that I am still here, and quite

alright. I have not received any letter from Arthur yet. Is he coming out here again, or is he staying at home for a little while? I hope at any rate that he will be able to stay at home for some time. I now Mr Lawrey last night, and he said that he was very pleased to think that you liked the Devon card. He is still most kind, and wanted to be remembered to you the next time I wrote. I am very glad to say that the weather here has got a lot warmer, which makes it so much nicer. I can hardly fancy that we have come to the end of Feb: already. The time does seem to have gone quickly, and if all the months go as quickly as this one I shall not mind, and it will not seem very long to the time when I shall get back with you all again (D.V.). Thank you very much for the slip of paper about the chaplain's death. I wish that we had got him now, as he was such a nice man. I am afraid that I must stop now. With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.
 Rouen.
 France.
 1. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a card to say that I am still here and quite well. You must please excuse the P.C. but I have not time to write a letter tonight. The weather is a lot better here now I am glad to say, and I hope that it is the same with you. Hoping that you are all quite

well, and with very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

4. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have received your nice P.C. and letter dated Feb: 27th, also Fannie's very nice long letter and the "Weekly News". Thank you very much, for I was pleased to get them, I have not received Arthur's letter yet, but I expect that it will come in a day or two. I am sorry that he has had to come out again. I was hoping that he would be able to stay at home now, but I expect that he has enjoyed his leave all the same though, I am sorry to say that I was not able to go to the 8.0.a.m. Service today, as I was on duty, but I managed to go to the Evening Service, and I enjoyed it very much. I have had no time to see Mr Lawrey the last night or so, but I hope I shall do so some time this week. You must please excuse this short letter, and I will try and write more next time if possible.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

6. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have received your nice letter of the 28th of Feb: with the primroses enclosed, which were looking quite nice. I was glad to be able to see some again, and I shall keep them in my pocket-book, and try to bring them home with me when I come. So poor old Joey⁶⁰ is gone at last. There is a fellow in my tent called Honeywell⁶¹ who knew him very well, and comes from the same place, and is also some relation to George Henley⁶², the carpenter. I have not had a letter from Arthur yet, and I very much hope that he has arrived over here again safely after his leave. You did not say how poor Louie was in your last letter, but I hope that she is better. We are still in the same place, and there is no sign of our moving just yet. I am afraid that I mast close now, but I will write again as soon as I can. With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

7. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a line to let you know that I am still quite well and happy. I have not had a letter from you since Sunday, so I am expecting now to get two or three together, as I do sometimes. It has turned a lot colder here today again, and we have had a little snow. I was hoping that the cold was gone for this year, but I do not expect that it will last long. There has been a very nice little Service tonight at the C.A. Hut, and we had that good old Sunday School Hymn 261, which I enjoyed very much. I am just going in to see Mr Lawrey for a few minutes, so I must close now.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

11. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have just received your letter of the 6th with Glady's photo enclosed. I was more than delighted to get it, as it is the first mail that I have received since last Sunday, but we are

expecting to get those that have been held up in a day or so. I think that Glady's photo is very nice, and I like it very much indeed. It will be one more for the collection in my pocket-book. The hair is a very great improvement, and I am sure that Jesse to be very proud of her. Thank you very much indeed for sending such a lovely parcel, I shall most likely receive it tomorrow, (Monday) as I generally them the next day after the letter arrives which you post on the same day. I do so hope that you have not been giving a lot for the things I asked for, and that I have not given you a lot of trouble in getting them, as I know you must find it a job to get along smoothly in these days, but I am looking forward to the brighter days that are coming, and hope that they will not be very long on the way. Will you please let me know if Arthur has gone back to his old address or not, as I am afraid to write to him in case he has not done so. One day this week I saw two or three R.N.A.S. fellows in our camp, so you may depend that I was after them to see if they could tell me anything about Arthur. They had come from the same place, and had been on the same job as Arthur is on, but they did not know him, though they are going to look out for him when they go back. I managed to find time one day this week to answer Uncle Jesse's letter. I also wrote just a few lines to Mrs Knapp and Norman, but when I came to send it, I found that I had lost their address, so I should be very glad if you could send it on when next you write. I am glad to say that I was able to go to the Early Service at the C.A. Hut this morning, and I enjoyed it very much. There were twenty-four there altogether, including officer and men, which I think was very good. You will be glad to know that

I am still getting on alrightly, and am quite happy. I am afraid that I shall have to close now. Hoping that you are all quite well,
With very best love to all.

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

12. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

You will be glad to hear that I have just received six of your, letters with photos enclosed, and I like them very much indeed. I am sorry that I cannot stop to write a long letter tonight, but I will see what I can do tomorrow.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

15. 3. 17.

My Dear Mammie and All,

Thank you very much indeed for the lovely photos. I do like

the family group very much, but I must say that I did not expect to have been in it myself. Nothing could give me more pleasure than to have a photo with you all in, so that I could have a look at you all now and again. I think that it is good of you all, and the best that has been taken, and the one of Arthur is very good, Mr L. is very pleased with his, and thanks you very much for it. He is still very good to me when I can get time in the evenings to go and see him. I am very sorry to hear that Jesse may have to join up again, but I hope that it will all be over before he gets out here. Your parcel has not come yet, but I expect to get it when I get back tonight, if so I will write and let you know at once that it has arrived. I was talking to a fellow here this week, and after a bit I found out that he was Lily Major's husband⁶³. It is surprising who you run up against out here. We have a new chaplain now, and he is a very nice man indeed, but we do miss the late one so, They get so many each night now that they go through the whole of the Evening Service, which is very nice. I am writing this in my dinner hour, so you must please excuse the scrawl. Hoping that all are quite well. With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

18. 3. 17.

My Dear Mammie and All,

You will be very pleased at last to learn that I have received parcel quite safely. It arrived today with your letters, one with the writing paper in it, and two others dated Mar::13th, and 14th, and also one from Mrs White. I am sure that I do not know how to thank you for such a lovely parcel. I only hope that you have not been sending more than you ought to do, for I should not like to think that you were sending me out things that you want yourselves at home in these times. Everything in the parcel is splendid and would not be better, and I am sure that I ought to be satisfied now after all the trouble that you have taken. I was more than delighted to see the shaving soap, it has been a treat to shave with it today. I think that Teenie's buns are wonderful and also her biscuits, and I am enjoying them very much indeed. I wish that I could tell you how very useful each article will be to me, but I am afraid that I cannot stop now, but I will write again as soon as I get the-chance. I shall have to close now or I shall be late for Service tonight. Again thanking you all very much indeed, and with very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. I shall keep a good look out for Cliff:⁶⁴ as he will have to come here.

No. 2. I. B. D.

Rouen.

France.

20. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

You will be glad to hear that I have just received your nice letter of the 16th. I shall not be able to stop for much tonight, but will just send a line to let you know that I am still quite alright and happy. I am very glad to hear about the garden, and I hope that I shall be at home when the things are up, I saw Mr. L. on Sunday night, and he gave me such a lovely writing pad, like a pocket-book which will be most useful when I get up the line. I do think that he is kind. He asked to be remembered to you the next time that I wrote home. I am sorry but I must stop now. With very best love to all,

From

Clifford

P.S. Please thank Fannie for Arthur's address.

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No. 2. I.B.D.

Rouen.

France.

23. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All.

We are off up the line today so I shall not be able to stay to write much now, but I will write as often as I can, and I will let you know where to write to as soon as I know myself. I am going to the 2nd Devons. I have received the pillow quite safely and just in time, it will be a great comfort. I cannot stop for more now, so hope that you will excuse it.

With very best love to all,

From

Clifford.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

27. 3. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

You will be glad to hear that I am still quite well and getting on very nicely. I am quite happy, so that there is no need for you to worry about me at all, and I very much hope that you will not. I am in the 2nd Devons, but cannot tell you where-about, but you will know how to address me any letters. I saw Mr. L, to say good-bye to, and he wants me to write to him sometimes. I am

writing on the tablet that he gave me, and I shall find it most useful. I will write you again as soon as I can.

With very best love to all,

From

Clifford.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
10. 4. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have received your very nice parcel quite safely, and I am enjoying it very much indeed. It is much too good of you altogether to send so much. I am afraid that you have to go short yourselves when you do send, and I should not like to think that were doing that at all. I also had three letters from you at the same time, dated Mar: 26th & 27th and April 1st. I have had a big parcel as well from Auntie Millie. Isn't it kind of her to send so often? I shall not have time to write her a very long letter, and I was wondering if you would writing and thanking her for her kindness as well as myself. How is the weather at home? It is not much like Easter week here for we have had another lot of snow today which has made it rather cold, and so I shall be very glad when it turns fine for good. You will be very glad to hear that I am still quite well and happy, so there will be no need for you to worry about me at all. I am sorry that I cannot write more often than I do, but I do not really get time, so you

must not think that there is anything the matter when you do not hear from me, for as you know "no news is good news". I have not heard from Mr Lawry yet, but I expect I shall in a day or two. You need not worry about my address any more now, as "2nd Devons" will always find me, even if you forget the company or platoon. I expect that you are enjoying the holidays now, or at least I very much hope so, as I know that you all need the rest so much, for times at home now must be as hard to bear with as they are out here. How do you think that things are going now? I always look out for the war news in your letters, as out here you only know just about the part that you are on. What a lot I shall have to tell when we all get round the front room fire again, (but of course I cannot tell you anything now) and I hope that we shall not have to wait until Christmas afternoon for that time (D.V.). I hope that you will excuse the fearful writing, but there are no C.A.s and Y.M.s up here, where we can sit down and write, so you have to do what you can. Well I am afraid that I shall have to close now, but hope to be able to write again very soon;

So with very best love to everybody,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
21. 4. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have just received your very nice letters dated April 6th, and was indeed pleased to get them. I am sorry to say that I have not received Mr Carpenter's⁶⁵ parcel yet, but I am looking forward to its arrival in a day or so. I must say how very much I enjoyed your nice parcel; it was such a treat, and it was a very good idea of yours to put sugar with the cocoa, it made such a big difference. It is too kind of you to still send when things are such a price, but as you say that you will not go without anything yourselves for my sake I shall not mind. Next time you should be sending if it is possible could send me a little loose tea and a little sugar mixed with it (like the cocoa was), or a small bottle of "Camp Coffee", as anything like that is most acceptable up here, when you are away from all canteens and Y.M.s. I should be very thankful for a box of those "Lighters" like you sent before, if you can get them, but please do not put yourselves out of the way to get any of them if you cannot manage it. I have had another very nice letter from Auntie Millie with an Easter card enclosed, it is most kind of her to send to me so often, and I hope that when I get back(D.V.) that I shall be able to go and see her and thank her myself. I am still getting on quite alrightly and am happy, but I have been shifted from 16th platoon and put in 14th platoon, but

that will not make any difference to the mails. I forgot to say that I should like a pencil or two when next you send, as they will be very useful, and very difficult to get up here. I am afraid that I cannot stay for more now, but will write again as soon as ever I can,
Hoping that all are quite well and with very best of love to everybody,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
25th-27th. 4. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am very pleased to say that I have just received three letters from you dated April 13th, 15th, and 16th, but I am most sorry at the news enclosed about poor 'Gene⁶⁶. I wonder what poor Uncle Jess and Auntie Nellie⁶⁷ will do now, What a blow it must be to them? I am glad to say that up to now I am quite all right, and getting along quite nicely, but I do hope that you are not going to worry about me now. Mr Carpenter's parcel has not arrived yet, I have not given up hope of its coming, and perhaps I shall

enjoy it all the more for having to wait for it a little while, but of course you need not worry about my address now, as "A Coy 4th Platoon., 15th Section, 2nd Devons: B. E. F, France", will always find me now. It is very kind of you to keep on asking what I should like to have in the way of parcels, I should like very much for you to send a small loaf of any kind of bread, and a little margarine in a tin, if it is not asking for too much; but if bread is scarce please do not think about it, In the way of "drinks" a small packet of tea or cocoa with a little sugar mixed is always very welcome, and I should be most glad if you could spare me a tin of "Brasso", as when we are out for a rest we have to clean all Brasswork, and polish is very hard to get up here. I am very glad that the garden is going on so nicely, and I do hope that I shall be home in time to have some of the fruits of all your hard work, I can so that Mr W: will be missing Francie on the farm if he works so hard in the garden. The weather is a little bit better now, I am glad to say, but just lately it has been like winter, and such cold winds. I think that we shall be only too glad when the summer comes. I am afraid that I cannot stay any longer now, but I will write as often as I can, and I hope that you will not worry if you are a day or so without a line. There is one thing that I forgot which I should be very glad of, and that is;- a few envelopes and a handkerchief.

Hoping that everybody is quite well, and with very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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A Coy; 4th Platon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt,
B. E. F.
France.
1. 5. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am glad to say that I have received another letter from you dated April 25th, but on all your letters "F.P.O. 42" is scratched out, and marked "Not Known at F.P.O. 42". I do not think that anything else is needed than the address I have given you. It seems to have been delaying them a bit. I am very sorry to know that I got mixed about Mr C's parcel, but I will write to him as soon as can. I am still quite alright and happy, and am looking forward more each day to the time when we shall all be able to go down to the garden. (D.V.) The few flowers enclosed I picked in what is left of a ruined village: they were just peeping through the bricks and rubbish. Haldon is a lovely flower-garden compared to the land out here. It never struck me until today about having to put the black lines on the School Roll of Honour for 'Gene; I never thought about that when I put his name down; he is seeing much happier sights now than he has seen lately, poor boy. Everybody will be glad when this is all over. Would you please send me some boracic ointment one day when you are sending, as it is most useful; and if you could manage it can you get me a small box of Horlick's Malted Milk Biscuits? (Providing they are not too expensive) They are very good there is not much else about. Well, I am afraid that I must

really close now, but I will write again as soon as possible.

With very best of love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. I thought that the flowers would do for Mammie's Prayer-Book.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
15. 5. 17.

My Dear Mammie and All,

You will be very pleased to hear that I had your parcels on the 13th, all by the same mail. Two of them had been delayed at the F. P. O. 42. and they had written on the outside- "Please give your people your correct address". Now that you have it I do not think that will be any delay now. I am sure I do not know how to thank you for sending such lovely parcels, and so often. I am only afraid that you are sending what you ought to be keeping for yourselves. In every case the bread and butter has arrived in splendid condition, and have enjoyed it so much. I hope that you will not think me ungrateful for not writing a very long letter, but just now we are very very busy, but as soon as I get time I will write you a long letter, and tell you how useful everything has been. Again thanking you much indeed, with very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. Tell Tom Martin⁶⁸, "No".

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
France.

25. 5. 17

My dear Mammie and All,

I have just received three of your letters dated May 15th, 16th, and 17th, and I was very glad to get them. You need not worry how I get your letters, for I think that there are very few of them getting lost, I do not get one every day, but get them three or four at a time, and by the dates I can see that I get very nearly all of them; so I hope that you will not worry about that any more. I must also thank you for the parcels again, and if you did not get my card, I received all four quite safely, and in splendid condition. They were all most useful, and I enjoyed them very much indeed. I have also had a very nice parcel and several letters from Auntie Millie. Isn't it kind of her to take so much trouble about me? I have only had time to send her such a scrappy letter. I have also had long letter from poor Uncle Jess, which I must answer as soon as I get time. I thought a lot about you all yesterday, May 24th, and I hope that everything went off well.

I must close now, with very best love to all,

Clifford.

A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B.E.F.
France.
26. 5. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have received your letter of the 19th quite safely, with the enclosed ones that you have had returned. I am very sorry indeed to hear that Mammie has been bad again, and very much hope that by this time she has quite got over her attack. I expect that she has been working too hard this hot weather. I am very glad that the garden is going so well; I suppose that now, Francie will turn his mind from farming to gardening. I should only like to think that I should see the garden in all its glory this year, but I must hope for the best, and wait and see what happens. I am very glad to hear that B. Cole is so much better. Please remember me to him the next time you see him, and tell him that he is not far wrong. I am afraid that I cannot stay any longer now, but I will try and write more next time. With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. Please thank Kennie very much for his lovely drawing, I think he is getting on very well.

P.P.S. I am very sorry to hear about Mr Parish⁶⁹.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt; Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
27. 5. 17.

My dear Mammie,

I have just received another parcel from you dated May 22nd
and four letters dated May 18th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd, also a C.A.G.
I am sure I thank you very much indeed. Yes, I did receive the
"drink" parcel, and I enjoyed the coffee very much, I do not think
you could have received the field-card that I sent you when the
parcel came.

Hoping that you are quite yourself again and with very best love
to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. Thank you very much for the flowers.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
2. 6. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

You will be very pleased to hear that I have just received

your letter dated May 25th, and your very nice parcel dated May 26th. I do not know how to thank you all I am sure, and I do hope very much that you are not sending more than you can really afford. I do enjoy them so much, but I should not like to think that you were going short to send to me, as I am very much afraid that you have been doing, to send so many parcels as you have done. You will be very glad to hear that according to your letters I have received every parcel you have sent, and not one of them has been lost, so I ought to think myself ate lucky. Please thank Murlie very much for the lovely buns; I must say that she has improved very much with her cooking. Please tell Teenie that the cocoa was just right, and I have been enjoying it so much. The chocolates were lovely, but I think that it was too good of you all to send them to me, as I know how the little ones look forward to their coming. Well, I am afraid that I shall have to close now, but I will write again as as I can. Again thanking you all very much,

I remain, with very best love to all,

Your loving

Clifford.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

6. 6. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I expect that you will all be very surprised to learn that

I have been in hospital for a day or two with sore feet, but I shall be going out again either today or tomorrow. I am glad to say that my feet are quite alright now, but they were rather sore at the time. "Ulcer Feet" was what the hospital people called it. I must say that I have had a very nice time during the few days that I have been here, and I should not mind if all warfare was like being in hospital; but I must hope that it will all be over soon. I was very glad to hear that "Empire Day" rejoicings went off so well. I can just imagine what it was like, but I should have liked very much to have seen it, all the same. I do not know if they will save your letters for me at the Battalion until I get back, or return them to you; so if you get one or two sent back you will understand why it is: but by the time you get this it will be quite safe to send to the ordinary address. Hoping that everyone is quite well,

I remain,

With very best love to all,

Clifford.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
 2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
 B. E. F.
 France.
 7. 6. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have left the hospital after a very nice time, and I am now on my way back to join the boys again. My feet are alright now I am glad to say, and I hope that now they will keep alright. We

are having lovely sunshine here now, but the only thing is, that it makes it rather warm for marching, but I expect that Daddie and Francie are glad to see it on account of the garden. Please will you wish Teenie "Many Happy Returns of the Day" from me. When the day comes (the 19th isn't it?) I would like to send her a card, but I do not know quite how long it would take in transit. I should be very thankful to Joan if she would hem me another little washing square, as I have lost the other one, and I did find it so useful. I am looking forward very much to getting one or two letters from you when I get back to the Batt: which I expect will be some time tomorrow. I am afraid that I must close now, But I will write again as soon as I can.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. You can tell Tom Martin that his words have come true.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
12. 6. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I got back here from the hospital alrightly and found waiting

for me some of your letters, dated June 6th and 4th, also the C. A. Gazette, and they told me that the rest had been returned to you. I expect that you will be more than surprised to hear that I am now in another hospital with the same complaint (Ulcer Feet), but it will only be for a few days I think. Perhaps it would be better if you were to stop sending letters for a bit until I can tell you that I am settled again.

21. 6. 17.

I am very sorry that I have not been able to finish this letter until today (21st), but I have been shifted to another hospital, and I am glad to say that my foot is much better, and I expect to be out again in a day or so. I do not know what will happen to the parcel that you have sent off: if only I had not had to leave the battalion again I should have had it the next day most likely. I also had another letter from Auntie Millie saying that she was sending a parcel as well, so I am afraid that I shall lose both. I was at the other hospital for Sunday June 17th, and I was able to go to the Early Service which was only the third time that I have been able to have the chance to go since I left the Base. I did enjoy it so much, and I could not help wondering when I shall be able to go again with you all at home in "Our Church", and I very much hope (D.V.) that it will not be long either.

26. 6. 17.

I expect that you will wonder what I am doing with this letter, having so many different goes at it, but I have to finish it this time. You will be glad to hear that my foot is a lot better, and I hope that it will keep alright now. I am being sent down to the

Base for a day or so, but expect that it will not be long before I am back with the Batt: again. I do not expect that it will be the same Base that I was sent to before, but I will let you know my address as soon as I can. Well, I am afraid that I shall have to close now, so hoping that you are all quite well, with very best love,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Ward C2.,
25th Gen: Hospital,
B. E. F.
France.
5. 7. 17

My dear Mammie and All,

I expect that you will wonder where I am, as I have not written this last day or so. I am glad to say that I am getting on quite alrightly, and I feel almost myself again. My address now is 25th Gen: Hospital., Ward C2. I expect though that I shall be going out this week to the Base. I shall be glad to get some more letters from you, as it was three weeks ago that I had one from anybody, and I do miss them so very much. Of course I know that you had not got my address, but if you write here, it will be sent on to me if I shift again before your letters can get here. It is such a nice place where I am now, I look out on to much the same sort of view that Gladys does from the Shanty. I only wish that it was the same side though, but I must hope for that time to come soon(D.V.).

There is a fellow in the same Ward that I am in who has a sister at Humber called Finemore⁷⁰. She works for Mr Trees⁷¹, and he himself has been to B.T. to stay. I do so hope that you are all going on alrightly, and I shall look forward very much to getting a line to know how you are all keeping. I cannot tell you how much I miss your nice letters. It seems as though you are cut off from everybody, but I shall look out for some soon, now that you have my address again. Well, I am afraid that I must stop now, but I will write again as soon as I can.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Base Detail Camp.

7. 7. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have left the hospital at last, and I am glad to say that I am feeling quite myself again. My foot is quite alright now, and I hope that it will stay so; but it was rather painful at the time, I think that I have been getting the effects of a slight touch of "trench feet" which I had back in the beginning of April, but was not bad enough to leave the Batt: with, but I think that they will be alright now, as I have been able to give them a good rest, I am now at a Base Detail Camp, and I shall be leaving in a day or so for the same base that I was at when I first came across here. I am

looking forward to seeing Mr Lawry again, (that is , if he is still there) but I am rather afraid that he is not, as I have not had an answer from him to the two or three letters I sent to him. I shall be so glad to get a letter from you again. I think that it would be almost safe for you to address your letters now to the old address at No. 2 I. B. D., so that then I should not have to wait so long for a letter when I do get there. I am most anxious to get a line to know how you are all at home, as I have not had a letter from anybody since the tenth of June, and it does seem a long time since I had any news of you all. Well, I think that I must stop now, but I will write again soon,

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

No 2 I. B. D.

B. E. F.

France.

9. 7. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to let you know that I have arrived here quite safely. The address will be the same as it was before, i,e., 2nd Batt: Devon: Regt., No. 2. I.B.D., B.E.F., France. I expect that I shall be here for a week or more before I go back up the line again, so I shall be looking for a line from you before I shift

from here. I am sorry to say that Mr Lawry has shifted from the hut, and it has been taken over by some fresh people, so I suppose that is the reason that I have had no letters from him. I suppose that now you are all joking forward to the holidays, and I expect that you need them, and I know that I have enjoyed my holiday in hospital very much. It was such a change from the front line. This is only just a very short letter to let you know that I have arrived safely, but I will write again soon and a longer letter; and, I hope in answer to one of yours.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
No. 2. I.B.D.
B. E. F.
France.
15. 7. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am still here at No 2, and, I am glad to say, quite alright. I was able to go to the 8 a.m. Service today, and I enjoyed it very much indeed. I thought about you all, and could not help wondering, when I should be able to go with you at home in "Our Church". I do so hope that it will not be much longer before we shall be able to (D.V.). It is very nice to be back here again, and quite a treat top be away from the shell-fire e.t.c. It seems to be so peaceful

after so much noise.

16. 7. 17.

I have just received your very nice letter dated July 11th. I can't tell you how glad I am to get it, and to find that you are all quite alright. I am very sorry that so many have been delayed, but I expect that I shall get them after a bit. You must not worry about me at all as I am quite alright now. I have had a few boils on my legs, but I am glad to say that they are all gone now, and I am feeling quite fit once more. I have been travelling about to different hospitals since I left the Batt: and I have been able to see a good deal of the country which I hope to be able to tell you about when I come home (D.V.). The P.C. enclosed is one that I have had for some time in my pocket-book, but I forgot to send it on. I am sorry but I cannot stop for more now , but I will write again tomorrow if I can.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

No 2 I. B. D.

B. E. F.

France.

21. 7. 17.

My Dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to let you know that I have received your parcel of letters quite safely. There is no need to say how

much I enjoyed reading them. It is like a letter a week long; in that, I have not finished them all yet, but keep them all in my pocket, and have a go at them in my spare time, I will write you a proper answer to them tomorrow if I can. You will be surprised to hear I expect, that Fred Soper⁷² is out here. I was surprised to see him but I do not think that he is going to the "Shining 2nd" though. This is all that I can stay for now, but I will write again soon. With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
No 2 I. B. D.
B. E. F.
France.
23. 7. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am very glad to say that I have received some more letters from you. I have enjoyed reading them so much, and I am more than glad that you have sent on those that have been returned, for the news was in no way stale to me, and it has been such a change after not having any at all for so long a time. You will be glad to hear that Mr L. is still here, but with fresh help. He is just as kind to me as he was before, but he does not look at all well; it is such trying work out here in these huts, I was very glad to get Arthur's address again, as I am sorry to say that I lost the other, but I

will send him a line as soon as I can. I have sent a card to Norman tonight, but I was not sure of his number. I put 22 St Romans Rd, but if that is not right perhaps you would send it on to me again. It is very kind of you to want to send me a parcel, but I am glad to say that I am not in need of anything to eat down here, but I will let you know as soon as I go up the line again. There is one thing that I should like to have very much, and that is, a small pocket dictionary, as I have lost the one I had when I went to hospital, and as you know, I am like a bow without a string without one in my pocket. Well, I am sorry, but I must close now, but I will write again soon if all is well.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

No 2 I. B. D.

B. E. F.

France.

31. 7. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am very glad to say that I have received a lot more letters from you, also two copies of the W.W.N., and two C.A.Gs. It has been quite a treat to have such a nice lot of news after going so long without any at all. I have also had a very nice letter from Mrs Knapp, which I must answer as soon as I can, I am glad

to say that I am still at No 2. I.B.D. but I do not know for how long. Please do not trouble to send any more parcels to me while I am here, as I get plenty to eat, and Mr L. is still more than kind to me, but I will let you know as soon as I go up the line again. There are several fellows here from Teignmouth and Exeter, and also one from Ashburton called Loveridge⁷³, a nephew to Jim Fey⁷⁴. I hope that you will get the card that I am sending, and that you will like it. I am sorry but I cannot stay for more now, but I will write again soon.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. I think that Fred Soper goes up the line tomorrow, but has been put into a different regiment.

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2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
No. 2. I. B. D.
B. E. F.
France
14. 8. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still quite alright. I have not yet rejoined the Batt: but I am expecting to do so very soon. We are at a rest camp up the line for a few days before we go to join the Batt: in the line. I expect that all your letters have gone on to the Batt: as I have not had any since we

left the Base, so I am hoping to get them when we get to the Batt:
 from what I can hear, I am afraid that our lot have been having a
 very rough time lately, and that a great many of my friends have
 been killed or else wounded. The little bit of Flower is for Mammie:
 it came off the Altar in the C.A. Hut at the Base. I did enjoy the
 services in the hut while I was there, and I shall miss them very
 much now, but I very much hope that I shall soon be able to go to
 the services in our church with you all (D.V.). Well I am afraid
 that I cannot stay any longer now, but I will write again soon.
 With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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15. 8. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am very pleased to say that I have just received your
 very nice letter of the 28th, also the enclosed returned one of the
 28th of June with the very nice painted ones of the little ones,
 I am very sorry to hear about Tom Kidston⁷⁵, and I very much hope
 he may turn up again alrightly. I have seen Fred Soper, and
 have given him your message, and said good-bye to him, as he has
 been put in the 11th Leicesters, and goes up the line tonight. I
 very much hope that he will get on alrightly. I have just come across
 a fellow out here whose wife used to be an assistant teacher in the
 School of Art in Exeter, where I attended, and also one from Teign-
 mouth called Church. I expect that Gladys would know him as he has
 had his photo taken at the Shanty. The enclosed card is for Daddy,

and I hope that he will like it. I must not stop for more now, but I will write again soon.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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16. 8. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a very few lines to let you know that I am still quite alright and happy. We have shifted to another place now for a few days before joining the boys again. I am very glad to say that there is a C.A. Hut in the camp, which makes it so much nicer. I do not know quite what to do about the letters, as I do not expect that the Batt: knows where I am, and it is no good giving you this address, as I shall not be here long enough to get a reply; so that if you do get any returned from the Batt: you will know why it is. I do hope that you are all quite well. I am looking forward very much to the time when I shall be able to get a line from you again. Well, I am afraid that I cannot stay for more now, but I will write again soon (D.V.).

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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A Coy. 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
23. 8. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to let you know that I have got back to the Batt: quite safely, and was most delighted to find 11 letters missing from you, and one from Auntie Millie, also the socks, dictionary, and handkerchief, which will be most useful. I cannot tell you how very much I have enjoyed reading all your nice letters, but I am so sorry to hear about poor Daddie, and I very much hope that he will soon be better. I do feel so very sorry about Fred Burgess⁷⁶. The "black lines" must be mounting up on the School Roll of Honour. My address is the same as it was before, :- A Coy: No 4 Platoon. I have just received another W.W.N. from Mrs Knapp, so I must write and thank her as soon as I can; it is kind of her to send to me. Just fancy Kennie and Murlie learning to ride a bicycle. I suppose that will mean more punctures for Francie to mend. I am afraid that I must close now, but I will write again soon (D.V.),
With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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A Coy, 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
2. 9. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still quite alright, and am going on well. I was very pleased to get the letters from the girls dated Aug: 25th, and also to hear that Mammie and Daddie had gone away for a little change, and i hope very much that they will enjoy themselves. I have also received two more papers from Mrs K. so I must try and find time to write and thank her. I expect that you have received my letters by this time, telling you that I have rejoined the Batt: quite safely, and that my address is the same as it was before, (A Coy, 4th Platoon.) so now I shall be looking forward to getting some more letters from you soon. I am afraid that I cannot stay for more now, but I will write again soon, if all is well,

With very best love to all,

I remain, Your loving

Clifford.

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A Coy, 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
"Sunday Evening"
9. 9. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Now that at last I have got a few minutes to myself, I will try and answer your very nice letters, which I have been receiving lately, and I expect that you will that it is quite time I did. I was very pleased to hear that Mammie and Daddie had been having a little change, and I hope very much that it has done them a lot of good. I expect that you would like to know that I received the letter from you both (posted at Saltash on Aug: 29th) at about midnight in the front line, and I was able to read it then by the moonlight, which was very bright that night. I was so very pleased get a line from Daddie, and I did so enjoy reading how he showed Mammie round all the different places, that we went to on the Sunday night before I came across here. The church we went to was St Aubyn's It is down the next turning out of Fore St after the "Welcome" (not "Sailor's Rest") on the same side of the street, and I hope that (D.V.) the next time you go there I shall be with you as well. Tell Daddie I know how very busy he always is, but I should enjoy to get line from him now and again; you would never believe how it brightens things up, to get letters from home. I am very glad that Arthur has been able to get home for a few days leave, and I expect that he has enjoyed himself. It was nice to get a letter from him, and

I must answer it as soon as I can. I do not know where he can have sent the rest of the letters, as this is the first that I have had from him. You have mentioned once a twice about my coming home on leave, but I am afraid that it will not be just yet. It may be before Xmas, but I do not expect so, as those that are going now have been out here about 18 months, and owing to the big losses we have had, my turn will come a lot sooner than it would have done. I was very pleased to hear about Glady's engagement ring; I think that Jesse is very lucky man indeed.

10. 9. 17.

You will be pleased to hear that I received the parcel you sent me quite safely yesterday, and that it arrived in splendid condition. The buns were lovely, and I did enjoy them so much, also the apples, which were very good, and I am sure I thank you all very much indeed. Please thank Murlie very much indeed for the piece of French money, it was half-a-franc (worth 5d) and that is the price of those silk cards I sent, so tell her that if I get the chance I will buy one with it and send it to her. We are staying now for a day or two near a farm; which is very nice, as we can buy milk there at 1d per glass, and coffee also. It was good to have a drink of milk again, but it is far from being like Devonshire milk, but as for the coffee, it is lovely. I should like you to taste it; if the French cannot do much else, they can make coffee. We had a very nice H.C. Service here on Sunday morning (yesterday) out in the fields, within sound of the guns, and with aeroplanes flying about overhead. The Altar was made from the Batt: drums; the four side drums on the ground in

a square, and the big drum resting on them with a nice white cloth on the top of that. It did look nice, and I did wish that you could have seen it, but anyway I thought about you all, and wondered when we should all be able to go again once more in our church as used to do. I can hardly realise that I have been out here nearly eight months, and in the army eleven, but according to the army papers I have been up twelve months the 3rd of Aug: last, and my time in the army will always count from Aug: 3rd 1916, as that was the day I passed the doctor, and the papers were signed, so that I have got over 13 months in according to that. Well, I really think that I must stop now, or you will get tired of wading through it.

With very best of love to all, and hoping that all are quite well,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. Do not think that there is a C. A. near: I had this paper at the last place we were in.

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A Coy; 4th Platoon.,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
22nd 9. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I can only stay for a very few minutes now, but I thought I must put in a line with the enclosed. The handkerchief is just a little remembrance of Oct: 12th. As we are out of the line for a

day or so, I thought I had better get it while I had the chance,
 so you must please excuse it being a little before-hand. I will tell
 you the name of the place where I got it when I get home (D.V.),
 but it is well within range of the guns, and people are still living
 there. I have got one or two bits of flower that I picked growing
 in what was once a german trench, but I must send those next time.
 I have received all your nice letters, including the long one,
 quite safely. I cannot really see to write any more tonight, so will
 you please excuse this muddle,
 With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section,
 Headquarters,
 2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
 B. E. F.
 France.
 8. 10. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I expect that you will be wondering when you are going to
 have a letter from me again, but I really do not seem to get much
 time now for writing letters. First of all I must thank you very
 much indeed for the lovely parcel; I did enjoy it so much. I have
 received both parcels now, and several letters, including those
 dated Sept: 30th, Oct: 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, I was also delighted to

get another line from Daddie, it is good to see his writing sometimes. I am glad to say that I am still getting on alrightly, and am quite well but I am sorry to hear that Mammie is poorly and that she has lost her voice again, especially at the Harvest singing time. I have got a slight alteration in my address, at least for a time. Instead of A Coy: 4th Platoon, it will be "Headquarters" as I have been put in a section attached to H.Q. I like the work very much, and I find my drawing more useful than anything else, which I am sure you will be very pleased to hear. I had a letter from Mrs White this week, and she says that Mr White has been in hospital. He has run a piece of iron into his leg, but is much better now, and is at a rest camp for a little while. I am afraid that I shall not have time to answer all the questions about the parcels now, but I will answer as many as I can. Tell Teenie that in the first one the tomatoes were in splendid condition, and I think that she is a very clever girl to grow such lovely tomatoes on the roof. In the last one the buns were a little broken, but still I enjoyed them just as much. I have still got plenty of vaseline, thanks to Joan, but I should like to have a small tin of H.P. one day when you are sending. Please tell Fannie that I should be very glad to have another pair of her gloves, as it is beginning to get cold already, especially at night; and if you have another pair of socks, I should find them most useful. I think that if you look in my rubbish drawer in the end bed-room you will find a sketch-book which Gladys brought me from the Shanty. I should be very glad if you will send it on, as it would be most useful to me in the job that I am on now; also do you think it possible to get me a small wooden "protractor", or if not a rule, as I have nothing

to draw straight lines with, and I have been obliged to use the edges of photos and things like that. Well, I really think that I must close, but I will try and write again in a day or two. With very best love to all, and again thanking you all very much For the lovely parcel,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section,
Headquarters.
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
16. 10. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Now that I have a few minutes to myself I will try and write you a few lines to thank you for both parcels and letters. You would like to know, I expect, that I received both the last parcels right in the trenches, where they were most acceptable. They both arrived in splendid condition, I do not think that there was one bun broken in either of them, and I did enjoy them so much. There were three others in the same dug-out I was in, and they thought that they had never tasted such nice buns ever before, and praised Teenie's cooking very much, and even wanted to find out if I could get to know what they were made of, so that they could send home and ask their people to make some similar to the ones you sent. I

was very pleased indeed to get that very nice photo of Christine. I do like it so very much. I have a separate one of both Gladys and Christine now, and I should like very much to have one of Fannie to go with them, when either Gladys or Daddie have time. I do so like to have any scrap of photo you send out, and I like to keep them in my pocket-book, so as to have a look at them now and again, just to remind me of the old times. I wonder if one day, when Daddie has got a spare plate, if he would take a rough photo of the Roll of Honour for me, just to see what it looks like now. I suppose that the colours have faded a good bit by this time, as I saw that they had started to do so when I came away. I am very pleased to hear how Gladys has got on in the Shanty; it just shows what they think of her, to leave her in charge like that, and it is about time too that they found out what she is worth. Tell her that I shall expect to have my photo taken every day of the week when I get back (D.V.) quite free, now that she is "mistress" of the shop. I expect that you will be wondering what the new address and job is that I am on: but I have had to wait until I could get a green envelope to let you know. I am now made a Batt: Observer, and I have to swank about with a green band on my arm. It is very interesting work, and I like it very much, and most of all, because drawing is one of the chief parts of it. The job does not keep me out of the front line, but I do no ordinary trench duty, such as sentry-go e,t,c. My chief work is watching all enemy movements by means of a telescope from an observation post, and marking down different things on maps, and finding compass bearings, and such like. Where I get on best is, there is a lot of map drawing, sketches

and so on, which I just enjoy doing. The corporal on the brigade told me that the officer was very pleased with my drawing, and said that it might lead to better things for me. He would not say for certain that it would, but that, if he were in my place, he would certainly keep up my drawing, so what he thinks may happen I do not know. You will also be glad to know that the magnetism and compass work, which I learnt at Newton Abbott that winter is very useful indeed, and I must really say that those few classes I went to have always been most useful to me, and I shall never look upon those nights as wasted time. The observing is all done by day, and we come back to H.Q. at night to sleep, so we can nearly always count on having a good night's rest in the dry, (which is a great thing) instead of going out: into "no-man's land" wiring, on patrol, or digging e,t,c, which I should be doing if I was back with the company; so that I have something to be thankful for, and I am sure you will be also. This is the first time I have been in the line on this job, and it seems more like a holiday when compared to the life in the company; of course, I get a lot to put up with, but to be able to get a night in the dry, and to be able to sleep is such a treat that you can guess I shall do my best to stay on this job. I do not know if Jesse will be able to tell anything about the job or not, but we come under the "Intelligence" branch, and are attached to Batt: H.Q, You will be glad to now that we have shifted from that part of the front you asked about, and are now on a quieter part farther down. I am very sorry that you have been worrying so much about me lately. It is true that the weather and mud are very trying at times, but I am glad to say that I am getting on quite

alrightly. Yes, I have been in mud and water up to my waist, (but not lately, I am glad to say) and I do not feel any the worse for it, which is a great thing. I do so hope that you will not worry about me any more now, because I am quite alright, and it only makes me worry if I think that you are doing so, and I know very well that you have got quite enough to worry you at home there, without troubling about me. I am very glad to be able to tell you, that what you heard about not having any leave under eighteen months is quite wrong, it has been so, but is not so now. We have got fellows going home from this Batt: now with 13 months service, and it has just come out in orders that the leave is to be kept going until all have been home up to six months, so I am quite expecting (D.V.) to be home either just before, or just after Christmas. I can hardly fancy that in two days I shall have done nine months out here, although at the same time it seems a long while ago that I saw you all. They do seem to be mucking poor Philip about with his leave, but I expect that he will enjoy it all the more when he does get it. I expect that you will be surprised to know that there was a young fellow in the same section, (back in A Coy) that I was in, who came from Bristol, and used to be in Daisy's class at St Nicholas' Boy's school, but I did not find it out until just before I left the Coy. Willett⁷⁷, his name is, and he lives in Queen Street. I have just received a long letter from Uncle Jess, and so I shall have to find time to answer it when we get out. He says that they have been staying at sea-side place, and it did remind them so much of the pleasant times they had spent at Teignmouth long ago. I hope that you will please excuse this awful writing, as I am doing it on my

knee in the trenches, I will post it as soon as I can when we get out and get a green envelope issue. Again thanking you all very much for the lovely parcels, not forgetting the sweets from the little ones,

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. I should be very glad if you could send me a pencil now and again as they will be most useful to me on this job.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters,

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

20. 10. 17.

My Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to put in with your other letter, which I write a few days ago. We are now out of the line for a day or two's rest, and I am glad to say we are getting along nicely. I have just received several nice letters from you since we came out, and also one from Auntie Millie. I have also received a very nice parcel from her, for which I hear, I have to thank you as well. I am very sorry that you have been kept so long without a line, but I really had not much time for writing letters, and I ran out of F.Cs. so I had to wait for issue, but I will not keep you waiting so long

again if I can help it. I meant to have told you what division I am in several times, but have forgotten it each time; so that you may be able to find out more easily where I am. It is the 8th Division, 23rd Brigade, but you must not put it on my address whatever you do, I am very sorry to hear about W. Perrett⁷⁸, and I hope that he will get over his illness alrightly. Well, I am afraid that I must close now. With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

22. 10. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have received your letter (with rule enclosed) dated 15th, and parcel of the 16th quite safely, and thank you very much indeed. It will all be most useful to me. I am still getting on quite alrightly with this job, and I like it very much. We are still out of the line, but we shall be going back in a day or two, so I hope that it will keep fine. One day this time out, we had to walk a mile and a half, and make a drawing, or rather a map of the road, putting in hedges, trees, e,t,c, as we went along, and then come back and draw the map properly. I was given the job to draw one for the Intellig-

ence officer, who said that it was very nice, and even showed it to the Colonel, who was very pleased with it, and said that he would like us to do several more. While we were along the road, we went into a French farm-house, and had some coffee and bread and butter, and while I was in there it did make me think of home, for they were just trying to teach the baby to walk. There was a little girl there like Joan, who held a kitten to entice the baby to come over to the mother. I hope that you will find the enclosed P.O. alright, and that will be useful. I got it off a fellow who had had it sent out to him in a letter, and could not get changed into French money here, so I changed it for him, as I know that you would be able to change it, and also find it useful. I am afraid that it is very small, but whenever I get the chance to get another, and a green envelope, I will send it to you, but please do not think that I am going without anything myself in order to it to you. We had a bit of a concert at H.Q. this time out, and it was very good. They borrowed a piano from Y.C. about four miles away. When the concert was over the piano had to be returned the same night, and we did have some game getting it back I can tell you. The concert was held in a big tent in a field, which was pretty muddy, and in bringing the piano out of the field in two-wheeled army cart, (in the dark) piano, horse, cart, and three men into a ditch four feet deep, with three feet of water in it, but as luck would have it, the piano stayed in the cart, so it did not get wet. My, it was some scramble for a minute or two, but nothing was hurt I am glad to say. The piano after that was jolted for four miles in a "dead-cart" over very rough roads, so how it stands in tune now I should not like to say. Well, I am afraid that I have no

more to say now, but I will write again as soon as I can,
very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

5. 11. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

You will be very pleased to hear that I have received both your very nice parcels and letters including the one dated Oct: 30th. I must first thank Fannie very much indeed for the very lovely gloves. They fit me splendidly, and I shall find them most useful. The army have just issued us out with a pair of gloves, but they are not a patch on those of Fannie, so you can guess which ones I shall use to keep my hands warm. You would like to know I expect, how well the parcels came. They were in splendid condition, both buns and pasties, and I did enjoy them so very much. It was very kind of Mrs R, I must say, to send that tea, and will you please ask Gladys to thank her very much from me. The sketch-book and block are very nice indeed, it is kind of Jesse to send them, and I will if I possibly can, send him a line to thank for them. I am very glad that Auntie Millie liked the handkerchief. It was very good of you

to have sent it on to her, for you were quite welcome to keep it for yourself, but I will send you another some other time if I can. I am enclosing one for Murlie's birthday, and a card for Francie, but I am afraid that they are very poor birthday presents, but I must make up for it another time, I am very glad that Philip had such a nice time, but I am sorry to hear that he is going to that place you mentioned, it is such a fearful Place, but I do hope that he will be kept alright. We have just done another time in the line, and are now enjoying a day or two's rest. We had the chance to go to Church this morning, of which I was very glad. It was held in a hut that has been put up, as it is getting too rough for out-door services. There was a H.C. Service held after the morning service and I enjoyed it very much, and I thought a lot about you all. I am afraid that you must not expect to see me home this side of Xmas now, they have cut down the number that was going each week to half of what it was, but are giving them 14 days instead of 10, so that is not so bad is it? I have just received a very nice letter from Mrs Knapp, and also papers, so I shall have to write and thank her when I get time. I am still getting on alrightly with the new mark, and I like it just as much. Well, I am afraid that I must close now, but I will write again as soon as I can. Again thanking you all very much, and with very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

24. 11. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

Thank you all so very much for your nice lot of letters, which I have quite safely, and I am sorry to say that I have not answered them as I should like to have done. I am very much afraid that you have been wondering what has become of me, for keeping you so long without a letter, but I am glad to say that I am getting on very nicely still, and I hope that you are all keeping well et home. I am very sorry to hear how ill poor Auntie May⁷⁹ has been, I do hope she will get over it. I have sent her a silk card with a big horse-shoe on it, I thought that it might please her. I tried to get one with a black cat on, but I was unable to do so. I am glad that Gladys enjoyed her holiday, and also to hear that she has saved a week for me, when that time comes. Your letter, dated the 20th has just arrived, and I am very glad to hear that you are all quite well. It is very kind of you to have sent off another parcel, I do hope that you are not sending what you want at home. You will find enclosed I hope, a card for Teenie and one for Gladys, which I hope that they will like. Please tell Fannie that I will get one for her, and send it on another time, only I hope that she will not mind waiting a day or two for it. Well, I am afraid that I must close now, but I will write again soon, if all is well.

With very best of love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

1. 12. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am very glad to say that I have received your parcel of the 20th Nov:, and the last two or three letters quite safely, but I am so very very sorry that you have been so worried about the Italy rumour. I am glad to say that it is not at all true, but of one ever knows what may happen, and I should not mind going at all, If we are obliged to go, as long as they wait until I have been home to see you all once more. I am very sorry to have kept you without a line for so long, but I am sure you will understand when you know that the tale which Sidney Fey⁸⁰ brought you was true, but I am very glad to say that I am quite alright. We took Philip's place in the line, and I can sympathise with him. What with the mud up to my neck and the fearful showers of shells(it simply rains them) I am very thankful to say that I have been spared from going into the worst places, by reason of this observing, but we are shifting from this place now and hope that we shall not see the place again, unless it

gets a great deal quieter. It is absolutely pitiful to see the poor fellows come back from the front line; It is too wicked for words, and I am very glad that we are saying good-bye to the place. I am glad in one way that you thought I was gone to Italy, so that you did not take much notice of the other tale, but there is no need to worry any more, as I am quite alright, and I do not know how to be thankful enough. The fellow that told S.F. has just come back off leave, he is called Whiteway⁸¹, and has friends at Teignmouth in the Triangle somewhere I think. I am afraid that I forgot to tell you how much I enjoyed the pudding in the last parcel; it was lovely, and will you please thank Jesse very much for the box of chocolate, and I will write and thank him myself in a day or two, if all is well. Well, dear Mammie, I must stop now, but I will write again in a day or two(D.V.). Again thanking you all so very much for the parcel, and with very best of love to everybody,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

11. 12. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have just got a few minutes to spare, so I will try and

write you a few lines to let you know that I am still quite well, and at a safe distance from the last place. We are now having a day or two's rest, for which we are very thankful, and we do not know where we are going now, but for certain it cannot be worse than the last place. I hope that you received the last cards safely, as I got each one in that particular place, and when I come home (D.V.) I shall be able to show you some of the roads that I have gone along. It is beginning to get very cold out here now, but it is much better than mud, so I must not grumble. I am very sorry I have not answered your questions about the scarf and helmet you offered to knit for me, but I am afraid that I forget sometimes what I have answered, and what I have not. It is very kind of you I am sure, to want to knit me one, but we are not allowed to wear helmets of any kind, and the army have issued us with a scarf, and I am afraid that I have not even worn that yet, so I only keep it for kit inspections, but socks are always useful, when you have got time to spare. You mentioned in your last letter about my telling you what I wanted in the parcels that you send, but, Mammie dear, you must not trouble about what I want, as I am sure that you have got quite enough to do at home without troubling about me. We hear a good deal from those who come back off leave, what a job you have all got at home to get things, and also how scarce everything is, and I am afraid that you must be sending it all out to us. I have answered Uncle Jesse's letter, and I am enclosing a piece of his which I thought you might like to read. I also sent a little handkerchief to Auntie Nellie, as I thought that she might like one, and I think that it is so kind of them to write like they do. On Sunday Nov: 25th I had

the chance to go to a C.A. Hut for the Evening Service, and I did enjoy it ever so much. I do not think that you would disagree with it out here, Mammie dear, when chances do not come too often; but they held a H.C. Service after the Evening Service, and I must say that I was very glad, as we had no chance to go in the morning, and I did enjoy it so much, and I thought about you all. A young fellow from Honiton stayed with me, (he has been confirmed since he came out here in 1914) You would like to know I expect, that fellows can be confirmed any time that they are out of the line. After the service the chaplain spoke to us, and said how glad he was to see some "Devons" again, and told us that before he came out he was one of the curates of Paignton church, and that the Communion set that he had just used had been in the front line trenches of Gallipoli with the chaplain of the N.D.H., who was the Vicar of Paignton. I am very sorry to hear about poor Auntie May. I cannot tell you how glad I am to hear about the money, as I am sure you must be having a fearful job to get along, let alone the worry of it all, now that everything is so scarce. You must not trouble about me at all, as I am sure that they send all the food and clothing out here for the army before they think of you all at home. I often think of poor Daddie with the boot mending. I expect that you are having a hard job to get any leather at all. We hear how that even in Exeter, people have to line up and wait to buy things. Tell Daddie that he must save up the mending for me to do when I come home (D.V.) for those few days that I am so looking forward to. Tell Francie that I shall expect him to come into Teignmouth station to carry my rifle for me, as I shall have to bring everthing with me when I do come. You will be

glad to hear that I have received quite safely your parcel of the 2nd, and also got one yesterday dated 30th of last month. Tell Teenie that both buns and pasties were lovely, and I did so enjoy them, and I am sure that you could not send anything more acceptable than the parcels you do send, and I thank you all very much indeed. I have had a letter from Mrs White, and I think that she is under the impression that my being on H.Q. keeps me out of the trenches altogether, she has asked me to write and say so in my next letter, but of course I could not say so in an open letter, and so I thought that perhaps you would write and tell her all about me, unless Mammie has not gone to Exeter to get the prizes before you get this. perhaps then Mammie would not mind telling her. Yousee H.Q. always go in with the rest. I think that I mentioned that we were back having a bit of a rest now, and are enjoying very much. While we are out of the line they do a bit of peace time routine, such as the band playing (the 2nd Devon: band) in the evenings, and the sounding of "Retreat" and such like. I often wish that Francie could hear them, it is only a drum and fife band, but they do play well. There are four side drums, and I am sure that he would like to see them. My, they do go for it. The drum-major is a very smart man, and keeps them together well. I do not know. I do not know if Francie would like to know what the Drum-major's decorations are, but in case he would like to I will tell him. He wears four inverted chevrons on the bottom of his sleeve with a small brass drum above them. I know that Francie is always anxious to learn the details of the different markings. I hope that you will have heard from Arthur by the time you get this, but I expect that he is very busy poor

boy. I wish that I could find time to write to him, but I seem to have all my time taken up in writing the few letters that I do now. I feel quite ashamed of myself sometimes, for keeping you waiting so long without a line, but I am sure that you will understand how it is. Please remember me very kindly to Mrs Finch⁸², when next you see her. I should like to send her a line for Xmas, and also to Mr and Mrs Treneer⁸³. I hope to be sending you our Batt: Xmas card soon, (when we get them) and also one of the 8th Division's, to which, as you know I think, I belong. They have been ordered, but we have not got them yet. Our 2nd Devon: card is very lovely, and is very much the same as the 3rd Devon: one that you had last year; but the 8th Div: one is coloured, with some of the names of the places that we have taken during 1917^[card], and I have had something to do with some of them, and I will mark them somehow if I can, but if not I will show you when I come home(D.V.). Round the edge of the card are all the colours of the different Regts in the Division. The colours of the 2nd Devons are red and green. We wear the colours on our sleeves just below the shoulder, in the form of a strip, red, green, red. The colours are taken from the tunic of peace time, i.e, red coat, with green cuffs and collar. I have got a silk card to send to Jesse (when I get time) to thank him for those lovely chocolates which he sent. I did enjoy them so much, and it was so good of him to send so many. It will be nice for the children if he brings up that "cinema" from Antony, that will be something new for them, won't it? I am glad to hear that Francie has taken on the job of taking care of Teenie on "cheque" days, and I hope that he will do it well; just fancy his not having been in a Bank before.

I am afraid that I have lived in a "bank" nearly all the time I have been out here, and very much hope that it will not fall to Francie's lot to live in one, I think that it is more like being rabbits than anything else. I expect that, as you say, Gladys is very busy at the Shanty just now. I wonder if she has ever come across a photo of a soldier named E. Gullick⁸⁴, who lives in Teignmouth, on Brook St Hill, next door to the "Prince of Wales" Inn. This man had his photo taken when he was on leave from France some time in 1915. He is in the Observation Section with me, but his chief job is sniping. He is a very nice fellow, and I like him very much, but I am sorry to say that he has been wounded rather badly in the leg, just before we left the last place, and I was wondering if Gladys would mind very much calling one day when she has time, to enquire how he is, and what hospital he is in, and then letting me know when you write. I wonder if you remember the time when the 1st Devon Yeomanry were camping at Kingsteignton, and we went over to the camp one evening after school? There is a fellow here on H.Q. who was there in the camp at the time. When I was looking at them that day I never thought that I should be out in France with any of them, within a few years of that time. It is surprising what a lot of fellows from about our district I come across, but I am afraid that I cannot come across the ones that I want to see. I could only just have missed seeing Philip when he left the last place, and I cannot find out at all where Mr White is. I ask nearly every R.E. I see, but no one seems to know that there is such a company as his, let alone where they are. The little place where we are staying now is quite a country place, and it does remind me very much of B.T.

only it is a bit smaller, but please do not class it with Luton
It has hills all round it, and a small river running along in much
about the same place as the Teign, and there is even a railway by
the side of the river, but there is no sea, and no Shanty. There
is a nice little school in the place, and our chaplain has got
permission for us to use it in the evenings as a writing room, e, t, c.
The hardest job is to get in there, as you can imagine what it is
like, a battalion trying to get into a country school-room, and I
have a great many say how much they would like to be back in the
same schools that they used to be in (myself included). There is
also a paper mill by the river, and the "Froggies" (that is the name
given to every Frenchman by our fellows) who work there are very
good about showing us round the works. I went round today, and it
is very interesting, and I enjoyed it very much; it was like being
back at Willey's again to be amongst the machinery and the noise of
engines; and a far nicer noise it was too, compared to the noise on
the "Ridge" (Krupp). They use wood pulp, and you can see it from
the time it is ground up, until it is cut up into the required
lengths of paper. I think that the mill is the mainstay of the
village, as nearly everybody in the place works there. I have got
a very nice billet here, we are in a large barn, and as there is
not any straw about we can have a fire, which makes it very comfort-
able. We like it very much when we get put into barns, as it is so
much nicer than dug-outs or even tents, but you must not think that
I am a mouse now because I have slept in a barn. I was told just
now that the Batt: Xmas Cards have come, so I will try and get mine
off the Serg: Major, and send it in this letter, but if not, I will

send it later, I think that it has got the Devon ribbon on it, i.e., red, green, red, so you will see what our colours are like. I wish that I could get one of the colours that we wear, and send it on to you, but they are very difficult to get; but if ever I do get the chance to obtain one I will send it on to you. We have just heard a big piece of news for this Batt:(but I am not quite certain if it is exactly true) but one of our officers who I am very sorry to say, was killed just afterwards, has won the V.C.(at the last place we were in). He is the first one to get that honour in our Batt: during this war, and you will be very pleased to hear that he was in good old A Coy:, but not in my old platoon, isn't that good? There have been several recommended for the V.C. but have not had the pleasure of receiving it. I think that he got it for bringing in a wounded fellow of his platoon from a spot nearly in the german lines in broad daylight. Well, Mammie dear, I really think that I must see about closing this awful scrawl. I hope that you will please excuse the letter, as I have written it in my pocket-book so that I could take it out and write a bit each time I have had a minute or two to spare, so you must please excuse me if it is a bit disjointed. I am now finishing it by the light of a fire in a bucket with a few holes in it, similar to the ones that the Night-watchmen used when they were mending the roads at Bristol. Again thanking you all very much for the lovely parcels and letters,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. I hope that you will not get tired of wading through this.

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Observation Section,
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
16. 12. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have just received your lovely parcel quite safely, and in splendid condition, also letters dated 9th, 11th, and 12th. I am sure that I do not know how to thank you all enough for the beautiful presents. The case and diary are very nice indeed, and just what I wanted. I shall now be able to take care of all your photos, and any more that you will be able to send. I have just received a lovely parcel from Auntie Millie, and also a letter, isn't it kind of her to keep on sending? She asked me that when I go on leave, to send Annie a wire to say what time I shall get to Bristol station, and she will be there, either day or night, with some refreshments for me. Isn't it good of them? I am afraid though that it will not be for a little while yet. I have also had a letter from Mrs Knapp and Norman, but I am afraid that they will have to wait a day or two for an answer. I was very much upset about the sad news of poor Mr White. I had to read your letter over several times before I could realize it. Whatever will poor Mrs White do now? I do feel so fearfully sorry for her. I am afraid that you will think that this is an awful scrawl, but I am in rather a hurry, and I thought that you would rather have a few lines than the card. I hope to be writing again in a few days, Again thanking you all very much for the letters and parcels, and with very best of love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

31. 12. 17.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have made several attempts to write to you during the past week, but I have had to give it up each time, so I think that I must do the same as before, and write in my pocketbook, so that I can write a few lines when I get the chance of a few minutes to spare. I must first ask you to excuse the writing, as I am writing this on my knee, and with my gloves on, as it is rather cold just now. I am very glad that you have received my letter saying that had got the Xmas parcel quite safely. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed it, and I thank you all very much indeed. I meant to have sent a special letter of thanks for very nice Xmas letter. I was glad to get a line from Daddie, but the time went so fast that it was gone before we realised that it had come, like it always does when we are out of the line, but as you may depend, we had a good time, as I very much hope that you all did, and I am looking forward to spending the next one together with you all (D.V.). We had a very nice Early Service, with quite a lot there, and I did enjoy it as

much, and I remembered the Xmas Day that Gladys and I went for the first time. We had several hymns which you will see on the paper enclosed, which was itself a kind of Xmas card from the Chaplain. We also had a very nice Evening Service in the School-room. We got on alrightly for dinner. Each one on H.Q. put 2 Francs towards the dinner, and we had roast pork and vegetables, with the pudding afterwards that the government allowed us, and I enjoyed it all very much. I expect that your wishes were the same as ours:- that we might all be home for the next Xmas dinner. We have been having very cold weather here lately, with heavy snow, and it still hanging about now. The ground was white several days before Xmas, and I shall be very glad when it is all gone. I am very sorry to hear that you have been having so much tooth-pulling at home just lately, and I am afraid that I have not got away without any myself, but I am glad to say that I am quite alright now. I expect that you remember that I had a bad tooth in the upper jaw opposite to those I had out in Teignmouth, well, it started to give me "what for" one night, so the next day I went round to the Ambulance, and the doctor soon had it out for me, and did it very well indeed, as you know they do not use anything to deaden the pain in the army. I must really say that it did not hurt me as much as it did in Teignmouth, and I did not get any nasty effects in my mouth the next day. Please thank Gladys very much for taking so much trouble to find out about my friend. I am very sorry that she has had such a bother, and had call so many times. I wonder if one day when she has time, she would finish me a postcard of the photo she sent out of him, as I should like to have one very much. I am very pleased to hear about Gladys's money, it is quite time that she was paid according to the

work that she does. It is very funny how I come across different people out here. There is a fellow here on H.Q. acting as a Batt: R.P., and I was sure that I had seen him somewhere before, but I never took the trouble to ask him who he was, and now after about 2 months I have found out that it is one of the young Mr Wheatons⁸⁵ at Exeter. He said that he remembered Daddie very well indeed. There is also the manager of the P.B. Boot Coy⁸⁶ at Teignmouth here in one of the companies, who said that he knew Mr Wallis of B.T. when he went to his shop to get the boots at Xmas. Well, Mammie dear, I am really beginning to think that I shall be seeing you all at the end of Jan: (D.V.) or else some time in Feb: if all goes well. They will start sending those this week that I was a waiting man for at Devonport last year. There is only about forty of them left I think. When these have been they will start my lot, and I expect that I shall be at the bottom of the list somewhere, but it is not at all a long list. We should soon all go if they kept the leave number going, only perhaps one week they will send 17 and then the next week send 2, which throws one back a lot. You must not look forward to it too much, in case we get disappointed, I try not to, but I find it rather a hard job. I think that I must close now, or you will be another day without a line, but I will write again as soon as I can. With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.
 Headquarters.
 2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
 B. E. F.
 France.
 9. 1. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

At last I am able to spend a few minutes in writing you a lines or two. I am very much afraid that you will think that I am getting a very naughty boy about writing, but I think that you will understand when you know that we have been in the line again. My last letter was written from the line, and since then I have not been able to get any away until now, so I must try and make up for it if I can. We left our rest billet directly after Xmas, and were very soon back in the line again, and they even took us back to that wretched place once more, but it is a great deal quieter there now I am glad to say, and we are not stopping here much longer. I do hope that you do not think it very unkind and unthoughtful of me, for not sending you a line of good wishes for the Birthday and the Wedding day, but when I wrote last I thought that it was a bit too early to mention it, and directly afterwards we were sent right up into the front line, where I could not even send a card, but I have sent one off now, if it is not too late. Well, Mammie dear, if I could not write, I thought a lot about you all, and wished you both very many Happy Returns of the 7th⁺, even if you could not hear me. I suppose you had much the same rejoicings, with the card hung up that the Vicarage people did all those years ago, together with

+ Mammie's & Daddie's wedding anniversary

some of those done for the occasion by the young artists of the family. The mail has just arrived, and it has brought me a letter from you dated Jan: 6th, and a beautiful diary and letter from Jesse, and a lovely parcel from Mrs White. The diary from Jesse is such a beauty, it is kind of him, it is much too good to knock about out here, so I must bring it home when I come (D.V.), and leave it with you to take care of. He wrote such a nice letter, and said what a lucky man he was to be engaged to such a good girl as Gladys, and I am sure he is, but I think that I am the luckiest to have such a goof lot of sisters. There are a lot of fellows here that cannot understand sisters taking the trouble to write to their brothers, and I am sure that I cannot think enough of my sisters. Do you not think that it was much too good of Mrs White to send me a parcel at this time. I should think that she has had quite enough to think about lately without troubling about me. She says that even now she cannot realise it to be true about Mr White. I do feel so very sorry for her. I have also had a letter from Percy Fey⁸⁷, how good of him to write. I must find a few minutes to spare and answer it as soon as I can. I am enclosing his letter as I thought that you might like to read it. Well, I really think that I am "bobbing on leave" at last. That is the soldiers' expression when his leave is very near. I have been told that if things go on as they are doing now, I shall be with you within a fortnight, or three weeks at the outside (D.V.). What do you think of that? So now if all is well, in a very short time you will be going to the station to meet me, your "Soldier Boy" at last. How I am looking forward to going to the Early Service with you all in "Our Church"? The last time I had the

chance to go was he Sunday before last, the 30th of Dec: in a C.A. but well within range of the enemy shells, in fact, shells have dropped all round it, but none have hit it yet, and I very much hope that they will not. There is the Church standing up amidst all the desolation and destruction of modern warfare. How I wish that some of the people at home could see where the H.C. Services have to be held at times; they would appreciate their Churches at home much more than they do. I am very glad to hear that Mrs G's affair went off so well. I knew very well that it would when I heard that the girls were helping in it; that is just like Fannie to be able to drop in and take some-one else's part at the last moment. I wonder if you would be able to get two maps before I come home, I mean the 'Bird's-eye-view maps of the Daily Mail. I forget the numbers of them, but one is similar to that which Mrs White has got hanging up in her kitchen; and the other is the one with the "Somme" district shown on it. I shall then be able to show you some of the places that I have come across during my visit to this "Somewhere in France". They are coloured maps, with all the little villages printed on them. I am afraid that I have no souvenirs to bring, but I shall be quite satisfied if I can only bring myself, and I hope that you will look on me as The Souvenir of the war. I am very glad that Arthur has had the chance to see you all again, but I should have liked very much for him to have been home when I come, but I must look forward to that another time. Please remember me to Mrs Finch when you see her next. I hope that Francie is getting up his strength to carry my rifle for me, as it weighs just over nine pounds. I can just imagine him doing rifle exercises like fun in a week or two, and

getting round Gladys to take his photo with it, if she has a plate to spare, also I shall look forward to seeing Kennie in my "tin hat" or steel "topee" as the boys call them, and I think that it will be something that he cannot break. I wonder if you would mind getting me new cap-badge and numerals by the time I get home (D.V.) as I suspect that Mammie will like to have these that I have now, as they are the ones that I have had in France, and I will give you the money when I come. I do hope and trust that we shall not be disappointed in any way. I try not to think about it, but when I see each one go, and know that it is bringing my turn nearer each time to the top of the roll, it does make me feel a little excited. I hope that you are saving all the odd jobs for me to do, such as the bell; and if Gladys will get all the necessary material I will see that it is all in working order before I have to leave you again. I am sorry that I have left it so late in my letter to thank for the lovely parcel of the 31st, which was waiting for me when I came out of the trenches just for a couple of days, and I can tell you that it was very, very acceptable just at that time. I am afraid that you had a bother to get the parcel together, but it was nice, and I shall find the shaving soap most useful. Daddie mentioned in his last letter about some blades for my safety razor, but I am afraid that I have had to give up using the safety one long ago, and since I have been using an ordinary one, (Army issue). I have used the latter since last July, and like it much better than the other kind, now that I have got used to it, and I even shave without a glass at that. Well, Mammie dear, I am afraid that I cannot stop for much more now, and I hope that you will not worry if I have to keep you waiting a little

while for the next letter, but I will write if I can only get the chance but I shall be able to give you all the news when we meet (D.V.). I must really try and find time to send a line to Mrs White tonight, to thank her for the Birthday parcels. She said that she thought that it was on the 11th, and not the 16th. Again thanking you very much for the parcel, and wishing you both Many Happy Returns of the 7th, and everybody a Happy New Year,
With very best of love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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15 Maple Road.
St Thomas'
Exeter.
6. 2. 18.

Mammie and All,

Arrived here quite safely. Mrs White at the station. Hope that you all got home quite safely last night. Will send card from Bristol tonight.

With best love to all,

Clifford.

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7. 2. 18.
4 a.m.

My dear Mammie and All,

Have arrived at Paddington quite safely, and am now spending

+ EXETER GAZETTE FEBRUARY 8, 1918. BISHOPSTEIGNTON. An entertainment was given to a crowded house in aid of the school fund and of the fund for providing wool for the children to knit socks for the sailors and soldiers. Living pictures were shown by Pte. C. Wallis, home from the Front; recitations and dialogues were given by the Misses F., C., G., M., and J. Wallis ...

a little while at the Y.M. before going on to Victoria. Have had a very nice time at Bristol; seen them all; and am glad to say that they are all quite well. Was able to get in with quite a lot of my friends at Bristol, so have got along quite nicely. Hope you have received my card posted at Exeter by this time. Will send you a letter as soon as I get the chance. Hope that all are well,

With very best love,

Clifford.

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Rest Camp.
B.E.F.
France.
7. 2. 18.
3 p.m.

My dear Mammie and All,

I expect that by the time you get this you will have received both my cards showing that I caught all the trains alrightly. You will be very glad to know that I am now across safely once more, and that everything is quite alright. We had rather a rough trip across. It took an hour and a half as the sea was so rough. My, "Hancock's Leaping Horse" was not to be compared to it. It made me feel a bit queer, but I am glad to say that it did not make me ill, as it did a lot of the poor fellows. I am going up the line to the Batt: tomorrow, where I expect that I shall have to get this posted, as I do not expect I shall be able to get it off down here. I had a very nice time at Bristol. Annie met me at the station, and then we walked up to No 4. I went over to No 6. in the afternoon, and

saw Uncle Frank⁸⁸ and Auntie Emily⁸⁹. Uncle Frank was very much better than I expected to find him, but I did think that Auntie Emily was looking bad: she has got so thin since I last saw her. They are expecting Cliff: to come home at any time now, so I have only missed him by quite a chance. I went back to No 4. to tea, and found Daisy and Auntie Millie there. They both look very well, and do not seem to have altered much. Leslie⁹⁰, Millie⁹¹, and Arthur⁹² came up in the morning and we had a very nice time. They all send their best thanks to Mammie for letting me stay a little while with them. Millie had to go away early because her mother is so ill, but Leslie stayed until I went away. Auntie Millie went away about Ten, and then Annie and Daisy came down to the station to see me off. I had a very nice journey from Bristol to Paddington, I slept all the way, and the porter had to wake us up, to tell us that we had got there. Then they took us in motors to a Y.M.C.A. outside Victoria, where we stayed until it was time to report, and catch the train for Dover, which I did, and came across direct, without delay. I am afraid that this is all my doings that I can tell you about now, as now that I am this side, I shall have to wait until I come home again (D.V.) to let you know how things go on. I will send you a Field Card as soon as I get to the Batt: and will write again as soon as I can. Well, Mammie dear, I think that I must close now, so with very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section,
Headquarters.
2nd Batt: Devout Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
11. 2. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

I am so sorry that i have had to keep you waiting so long for a line. I know that you will have been rather anxious to hear that I have arrived back at the Batt: quite safely. I had quite a lively reception from the fellows on H.Q. who said that they were very glad to see me back once more. I wrote you a letter the afternoon that I landed, as I stayed the night in that place, but I was unable to post it there, so I was obliged to bring it up the line with me, and I am enclosing it with this one. When I got to the boys I found that they were shifting, and when we are moving no letters are taken at all, so that is why I have had to keep you waiting so long for a line, but I am hoping to get this away tomorrow very much, if all is well. You will be sorry to hear, I expect, that they have landed us back on the same part of the line again, but not for long I think, and this is to be the last time I hear, anyway I hope so. It is not as bad now as it was, which is a good thing. I found your letters of the 20th, and 21st, waiting for me when I arrived back, and I have since received your letter of the 6th, and also the nice parcel. I think that you have frightened the fellows out here. They said to me, "My, What parents you have got? They do not mean you to forget about home. They must have started writing

and sending you parcels before they said good-bye to you. The pasties were lovely, and I shall find the waistcoat and socks most useful. I expect you will remember the C.A. Hut that I spoke about when Jesse was up. Well, I am glad to say that it is still living, but I should not have been surprised to have found it like a heap of chopped sticks. I was able to go to the Evening Service there yesterday (Sunday), and as they had no one to play the Hymns for them I was able to manage for them, which I enjoyed very much, and the fellows did sing. I could hardly fancy that it was only a week ago that I was playing the organ at home. There was a H.C. Service afterwards, which I enjoyed very much, and I thought about you all. When I got to Exeter after saying good-bye to you, Mrs White showed a letter she had received from one of the fellows in Mr White's company, telling her the names of the places where he was wounded and where he was buried, and to my surprise, I found that he was not two and a half miles from me when he was hit, and that where he is buried is not more than three or four miles away from where I am now at this moment. I do hope that I shall be able to go and see his grave. I shall if I possibly can, but I am not allowed to go wandering about from one place to another, especially just behind the lines. Please will you tell Gladys that I have been asked by some of the fellows here to send a special message to her, asking for a copy of the large head-and-shoulders photo that she took. Would you please ask her for-six, and let me know what is the cost of them, Well, Mammy dear, I am afraid that I must close now, but I will be writing again soon, if all is well. With very best love to all,

I remain, Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

14. 2. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

I have got a few minutes to spare this afternoon, and so I will write a few lines to thank you for the lovely letters which I have received quite safely, the last one being dated Feb: 11th. I am glad that you have had my F.C. showing that I had got across alrightly, and by this time I expect, you have had my letter which I wrote when I rejoined the Batt: I had a very nice letter from Daisy yesterday, thanking me for the card which I sent them from Paddington. She told me that she was writing to you, so I expect that you have received her letter by now, and I suppose that I must find time to answer the one she sent to me. How very good of Murlie to be saving up her money to send me a parcel? I shall have to save up my money now, and buy her a silk card or handkerchief when I get the chance to get near a shop. I am very glad that you have heard from Arthur again, and I hope that he will soon get a transfer to home. Please let ms know what his address is now, as I think that Teenie said that it had been altered a bit. Just fancy your having so few children in School? I wish that they would close your room, so that you could have a bit of a rest. I am very glad that Auntie May was pleased with her card. If you think that she would like it, or that it would brighten her up in any way, I will send her a card

now and again. I am very glad to hear that W. Perrett is a bit better, but I expect that it will be a long time before he is able to walk about again, poor boy. I am glad to hear that Kennie is taking such an interest in the drum, and I hope that he will keep it up, I shall then expect to hear something wonderful with two good drummers, and I hope that very soon they will be playing at the peace rejoicings. Well, Mammie dear, I thought that I was going to write you a nice long letter, but I find that I have to stop up short, so I will try and finish it in a few days. Tell Murlie I will write her a letter to thank her for the parcel as soon as I can, and I hope that she will like her card.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

25. 2. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

You must please excuse a letter in pencil writing this time. It is not because my pen is not in working order, or that the ink is short, but because I have a green envelope for you, and I want to make the most of it if time will allow, and I thought that I could

get along more quickly if I wrote in pencil instead of ink. First of all I want to thank you all so very much for all the lovely letters and parcels, which I have received quite safely within the last few days alone. I do not know if you will have guessed by the F.Cs that I have been spending the last few days on the "Ridge", and I am very glad to say that I have been allowed to come out quite safely once more, and I am feeling none the worse for it at all, and I only hope that you are all feeling as well as I am feeling myself. I received Murlie's parcel quite safely before I went into the line, and I did enjoy it so very much, and I fully intend to write her a letter of thanks for it when I get time. I hope that she has received the card safely. I should like to have sent her a handkerchief instead, as I know that they are more in the line for little girls than cards, but, as I expect you will guess, most of the shops up this way are rather badly bent, and those that are left have not much to select from, but I must see what I can do later on. Well, Mammie dear, you will be glad to hear that I received your parcel of the 15th right in the line. I was surprised, as I did not think that they brought parcels up there, it is only quite lately that they have started it. It was very welcome indeed up there, I can tell you, and there were only two others of my section in the same shelter that I was in, so of course we all shared in, and they all enjoyed it as much as I did. The chop was perfect. We warmed it up in a canteen lid with some bacon we had got, and we had "Some" breakfast. The boys said that "John Bull" ought to have come up and seen us, and then he could have said truly that the boys were living in the trenches. I think that it must have been

similar to that which he saw when he wrote, "What I have seen at the Front" (Base). I also received your letters of the 17th, 18th, and 19th, together with Francie's and Murlie's letters, and also the handkerchiefs enclosed. All these I received in the line, and when I came out I found your Parcel of the 20th, with letters of the 20th, and 21st waiting to welcome me. I am sure I do not know how to thank you enough for sending so much, and so often. It does help to cheer and brighten me up when I have had letters from home to read, and I think that that is why I am always feeling so happy. It was good to come home and see that you were all living in peace, and that our homes were standing just the same as when we left them, and not like the many, many places that were homes once out here. I am glad to say that I have come out even with a better heart this time than I did the last time, after my little holiday with you, as it shows me that it is well worth my being out here to have kept the actual fighting out of dear old England, especially glorious Devon. The fellows out here envy me very much because of the number of letters that I receive. They cannot understand my having so many from home. The only way that they can get a lot of letters is to write to a dozen different young ladies. Only the last time in the line a young fellow said to me, "Well, you have got a home and relations to be proud of, to take so much trouble to write to you as often as they do. Our people never do". I have got all the letters from the 17th till the 21st by my side that you have sent me, and I am trying to answer them, and one fellow who has just come in and seen me wanted to know if I were censoring the letters for the Batt: as there were 32 leaves of writing that you had sent to me between the

17th and the 21st. I am very sorry to hear about poor Auntie May, but at the same time I am not very surprised to hear it, for she was looking so very bad the last time that I saw her. I am also very sorry to hear about Mr Hawker's mother⁹³. Has Gladys and he fought it out about that flower yet? How very kind of Jesse to take so much trouble about the "D" whistles, and I hope that you will be able to get them, as it would be a pity to let the band deteriorate now that it is so good. I think that it is much better now than it has ever been, so what it will be like when you get good drummers I am sure I do not know. Tell Francie that they are starting a 2nd Devon: brass band now, so we shall be some swank now when we are shifting about. I have just had a letter from Peter⁹⁴, which I must try and answer as soon as I can. He said that he had just received a nice letter from you, and also thanked very much for the badge. I do not know if I told you in my last letter that I am only about five or six miles away from the cemetery where Mr White is buried, so I am doing my best to go and see his grave. We happened to be out of the line on Sunday the 17th, and as I had nothing to do in the afternoon, I started off to try and find the grave, but I am afraid that the hunt we had was in vain. A L/Cpl in my section went with me, and we struck out for the place that was mentioned in a letter sent to Mrs White, but we could not even find a cemetery, let alone a particular grave. The cemetery is named after a certain place, which we made for, and after it was time to come back, we found that the cemetery was at least 3 or 4 Kilos: away from the place that it is named after; which was rather disappointing after we had walked over 12 miles, but I am going to have another good try this time out of

the line if I possibly can, as I think that we are shifting from here somme-where else. I have just had a letter from Mrs White, and I think that she would be very glad if I could see the grave, and then let her know what it is like. I shall try and make a little sketch of it if I can. I had a very great surprise yesterday (Sunday 24th) We had just come out of the lime, and got cleaned up a bit, and then went down to the C.A. Hut not far away, and had a nice afternoon. When I got back to tea they told me that there had been a fellow in the hut to see me whilst I was gone, who came from Bishop's Teignton, and that they had sent him down to the C.A. Hut to find me. You may guess that I wondered very much who it was. I went straight back to the Hut again and there I found Willie Martin⁹⁵. He had walked about 2½ miles to find me, and seemed very glad to think that he had found me at last. He was not looking too well, and I think that he will be very glad when the war is over, poor chap. I was able to stay talking to him for quite a long time, and then was able to walk back half way to his camp with him. The poor fellow was so pleased, for he had received a parcel and a letter from you the same day. He had brought me your letter to read, and the gloves to see. He said that it was so very kind of you, and he is going to write and thank you this week. He said that he did so like to have letters from you, and he is going to write and tell you that he has seen me, and how well I am looking. On the way to his camp we passed a Y.M.C.A. It was about 5p.m. so we went in there and had some tea, and I bought him some cigarettes, which he seemed very pleased to have. He is coming over again one day if he gets the chance, and I hope that he will. I left him about 6.15 p.m. and

then just managed to get back to the C.A. Hut for Service at 6.30 pm. With H.C. afterwards, which I enjoyed very much, and thought about you all. I had to stop this scrawl for dinner, and while I was having it the mail came up and brought me a letter from you dated Feb: 22nd and the photos from Gladys. Please will you thank her very much, and I think that they are very nice indeed. I like the one round the railing very much, and think that it is lovely, and I am also glad to hear about the whistles. Well, Mammie dear, I really think that I must stop now, but I will write again soon if all is well. Again thanking you all very much indeed, and with very best love all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. In reading this over I find that I have forgotten to thank for the lovely gloves, which fir very nicely. Good-bye, ee, ee, ee.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

10. 3. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

I expect that you will be wondering when I am going to write to you again, but I have hardly had a minute to spare this last week. We are out of the line now for a day or two I am glad to say, but up to today I have not had time to write a line. I just managed to

get a card off for Fannie, but I am afraid that it will not arrive in time for the right day, so she must please excuse that, and put it down to the war. You will be glad to hear that I received both your lovely parcels; the one with chops in it came to me right up in the line on the "Ridge", and the other one came the day I got out. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed them, and I am sure that I thank you all very much indeed. I was so delighted to get a letter from Daddie, and it was good to see his writing once more. I am sorry though that he has had such a bother to get the whistles, but I hope that the ones from the "Scout" will be alright. We had a little more snow last week, but I am glad to say that it is going away now, and today it is beautiful, lovely, sunshine, just like summer. I am writing this in the sunshine, sitting on a box in a farmyard. It is quite a treat to be a bit quiet again, and out of the mud. I expect that you are all in Church at this time, but I am afraid that there will be no Service for us today. Our chaplain is not here, and there is no C.A. or Y.M. Hut near, so we shall have to make the best of it, and look forward to having a proper Sunday later on. You may perhaps have received a little brooch by this time with "Ypres" on it. If you have, it is from me. I got it a week ago, and a friend of mine going on leave is posting it for me in England. It is not worth very much, but I hope that you will like it. I am very glad to hear about Corp: Robinson. I expect he will be very glad to get away from Germany, and I hope that it will not be long before he gets home altogether. Just fancy Mark Knight coming out again, I wonder what Batt: he will come to. I should not be surprised to see him come to this one. I expect that he is sorry

to be out here again, poor boy. If you are writing to Peter soon, will you please tell him that I have received both his letters, and that I will try and write to him soon. Well, Mammie dear, I am afraid that this is all that I can stop for now, but I will write again as soon as I can. Again thanking you all so very much for the letters parcels, and with very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. Could Francie get me a new chin-strap; a wide one if possible, and let me know what it comes to, one day when he has time to spare?

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

16. 3. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to thank you very much indeed for both letters and parcels. I have received quite safely your letters from the 5th to the 11th, and also four parcels. I am afraid that I do not remember quite all the dates, but the last two are the 8th, and 12th. I am sure that I do not know how to thank you all for the nice things. It is much too good of you to send so much, and so often. The meat arrived in splendid condition, and so did the butter, and I enjoyed it all very much indeed. Please tell Teenie that the buns

and pasties were lovely, and thank Fannie very much for her apples. I hope that by the time you get this, she will have received her card, I am only too sorry that she will not get it for the right day. The butter was a great treat, and quite a change, and all the other little things will be most useful. I had a very nice letter from Daisy a day or two ago, so I must try and find time to send her a card if I cannot manage a letter. She said that Cliff: has not been home on leave yet. What a long time he is having to wait? But he will be more likely to get nice weather now than if he had gone sooner. I am very glad that Auntie has received her card, and that she likes it. I do hope that she will get on now that the weather is a little warmer. We are still having it nice and fine, and I hope that it is the same with you; if so, I expect that all the farmers will be very busy. How is Francie getting on with the garden or is he too busy working for Mr Willcocks?⁹⁶ I am very sorry to hear such bad news from Auntie Hettie⁹⁷. What a lot of trouble she is having. She must be quite worn out. Will you please let me have Norman's address again some day when you are writing, as I am afraid that I did not write it down in my book, and I have forgotten what it was. I should like to send him a line now and again, when I can find a few minutes to spare. I am glad to hear that Charlie Apps⁹⁸ is home on leave, and that he has been in to see you. I should like to come across him out here. Has Willie Martin come home to do ploughing? He said that he had put in his name for it, but he did not know how it would come off. I should like to hear that he had got home, poor chap. Well, Mammie dear, I think that this is all that I can stay for now, but I will write again as soon as I can get the chance to

do so.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt:Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

8. 4. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and quite well, and feeling none the worse for the lively time we have had. We are still out of the line, but I do not know for how much longer; not too long I expect, but are almost fit for another go now that the gaps are filled up. Peter was very nearly right in what he said, but a little nearer A than Q. I was very sorry to hear that he had had to go under another operation, but I expect that he feels that he is much better off where he is, than to be out here, poor boy. I sent him a field card yesterday, and I will try to send him a few lines as soon as I have written to Bristol and to Uncle Jess. We had a big inspection yesterday (Sunday) by the General of the 8th Division. He thanked us for all that we had done, and told us what a name we had made for the Devons, and not only that, but also what a good name we had won for the Division,

and that he could not say how proud of us he was, and also others of higher authority than he. He said that we had done what four other divisions had failed to do, so that was not so bad, was it? I wish that you could have heard our boys when they got relieved, as, although they were done right up, when they got back to a billet, they sat in a barn, and sang "Glorious Devon". Have you heard anything of Mark Knight? He is not here with this Batt: as I have looked everywhere for him. The company that he was in had a lot of men taken prisoners, (through hanging on to their position) and I am wondering if he was taken with them. I hope not. Neither can I find out anything about Mr Leach⁹⁹, except that he is not with us. Do you remember my taking back some tobacco to a L/c Draper¹⁰⁰ at Tregantle? For funnily enough he joined this Batt: with the same draft as Mark Knight did. I just managed to speak to him for a few minutes before we went into action, and he seemed so pleased to meet me again, but I am sorry to say that he is also missing. I suppose that we have to thank Russia⁺ for all this, but I think that even now "Johnny" will find that he has made a mistake this time, and I am beginning to think that this is the commencement of the end, at least I sincerely hope so. We had a very nice Church parade yesterday morning, after the inspection, and a very nice Service in the School-room of this little village where we are now staying. There was a H.C. Service afterwards which I enjoyed very much, and I thought a great deal about you all. It was so nice to have a little bit of Easter, but the worst of it was we could not have one Easter Hymn, as all the Hymn-books had been lost in the fight, and all that the chaplain had was a few sheets of "General Hymns, which we had to

+ The treaty of Brest-Litovsk on March 3rd 1918 withdrew Russia from the war, allowing Germany to execute the "Spring Offensive".

use instead, but I hope that next Easter we shall be singing hymns at home (D.V.). I know that this is just the same as we wished each other last year, but I really do not think that the war will last another twelve months, especially at the rate things are going now. This is the sort of fighting that will decide it, not trench warfare. The chaplain is trying to get a bit of a choir together, just help the singing a bit, and he has got my name down to help with the Alto parts, but they have only got one music hymn-book, so I was wondering if you had got an old one that you could spare me, when you can find time to fish it out and send it. I was very glad to find that paper and envelope enclosed in one of your letters, as I have lost everything like that. I should be very glad if you could send me a writing pad similar to those you use, (without envelopes) and just enclose an envelope now and again. Because if you try to keep a packet they all get spoilt with the damp, but please do not trouble about it if they are difficult or expensive to get. I used the envelope for Mrs White, as I was lucky enough to get a green one for you, I had a very nice letter from Mrs White yesterday, and said what a nice photo you had sent her of us round the railings, and how very much she liked it. She says that B. Burley has left Knapman's¹⁰¹ and has gone to Plymouth. I wonder how Lillie¹⁰² likes that because they were such great friends. I am very glad that Gladys enjoyed her stay at Saltash, but I was sorry to hear about the usual job with the trains. I think that they had better be like the army, and leave the trains alone, and walk everywhere. Well, Mammie dear, I think that this is all that I can stop for now, but I will

try and write again soon.

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. I have just received your nice letter of April 3rd. I hope that you have received one of my letters long before you get this.

With love,

Clifford.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

9. 4. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

Just a few hurried lines to let you know your Easter parcel arrived today (posted Mar: 26th,) and also your nice letter of the 4th of April. I know that you will be very glad to hear that it has got here safely at last. I myself had almost given it up as having "Gone West". You will also be pleased to hear that it is quite good as far as it's condition is concerned, and I am looking forward to "home" spread for supper tonight. Everything will be most useful, and I was more than glad to see the socks, as it happens to be just what I want very much at the present time. Please will you thank everybody very much indeed for all the lovely things. I am only too

sorry that I cannot stop for a proper letter tonight, but I thought that you would like just a few lines better than a field-card. I hope that you have heard that I am quite alright before this letter arrives. Again thanking you all very much indeed,
With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

P.S. Would you mind sending me out a set of Devon numerals when you have time, and also let me know what they cost, as they are for a friend of mine (Vick,)¹⁰³ one of the boys that I have told you about.

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Observation Section.

Headquarters.

2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.

B. E. F.

France.

14. 4. 18.

My dear Mammie and All,

I was delighted to get your letter yesterday dated April 8th, and to hear that at last you have heard that I am still quite alright that a long time they seem to have held the mail up? I have sent you since the 4th two green envelopes; one open letter; and a field-card, which I do hope that you will soon get. I have also sent two letters and one field-card to Mrs White, so I expect that she has wondered what has become of me. You will be pleased to know that I have been receiving your letters quite alrightly, so they can only have held

up the mail from France to England. I do think that it was so very good of you all to have kept on writing when you did not hear from me. A lot of fellows have told me that their people had given up writing to them until they hear that they have come through the last lot of fighting safely, and some have been getting into hot water, because their people thought that they were not writing. We are still out of the line, but I do not know for how much longer. We are shifting again soon back to the north, I think, but we shall not know for certain until we get there. I am very glad that they have heard from Mark Knight and Mr L. Just fancy him being lucky enough to get home again, he is not seeing much of France, is he? Please let me know as soon as hear anything as to what Mark Knight has gone into hospital with, and if he got home on leave or not. We are having a service here tonight with H.C. Service afterwards. The weather is very cold today, and very trying. I hope that you have got it better with you, I trust that you will excuse this short letter, and the paper, but it is all that I have got just now. I will try my best to write again soon, but if we are shifting I shall not be able to get any letters away for a day or two.

With very best love to all,

I remain

Your loving

Clifford.

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Observation Section.
Headquarters.
2nd Batt: Devon: Regt.
B. E. F.
France.
23rd 4. 18.
St, George's Day.

My darling Mammie and All,

Just a few hurried lines to let you know that I am still quite alright, and that I have received your lovely parcel of the 16th, and letters of the 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th quite safely. I expect that by this time you will have had my card showing that I have received the Hymn-book, and the other parcel alrightly, also the Devon numerals, which are quite alright. I am sure that I thank you all very much indeed, and I hope that you will please excuse this very hurried letter, as, I expect you have guessed, we are now in "full swing" in the line again, and shall be for a few days yet I expect, but there is just the chance of getting away a green envelope, so I am making the most of the chance. I thought of Mark Knight a few days ago, when we went by the place where he washed his feet in that water shown on the card he sent you, and I am somewhere in that district now. I am very sorry to hear that poor Philip has been hit again, and I do hope that he will get on alrightly and not suffer too much, poor boy. Yes, I did receive a parcel with some jam in it a few days ago, but you could not have had the field-card I sent, and I am very sorry that I forgot to mention it in any letter since, so please will you thank Nurse very much from

me, if it is not too late now. I have just received a nice letter from Auntie Millie, but I am afraid that I shall have to wait a day or so before I can answer it. I have also had one from Mrs White, and one from Mr Williams¹⁰⁴, wasn't it kind of him to write? Well, Mammie dear, I am afraid that this is all for now, and I will let you know as soon as I can when I get out of the line (D.V.).

With very best love to all,

I remain,

Your loving

Clifford.

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A.1.

April 4th 1918.

My darling Mammie and All,

I cannot tell you how glad I am, at last to be able to send you a few lines once again.

I am not going to waste any time telling you how sorry I am to have kept you waiting so long for either card or letter, because I know that you already know what has been happening lately and that all letter writing was impossible.

Well Mammie dear, we have been in the thickest of it all, as you may have seen, for ten days without a stop, but am very pleased to say that now we are having a little rest, just to get things together a bit.

I cannot tell you how thankful I am to still be alive after these last few days; it is far more than I expected I can tell you, and I am sure that it must be only through your prayers at home that have kept me without a scratch through what has happened in this week, but I hope that the worst is over now.

I hardly know how to be thankful enough when I look round and see that I am one of the few that have come through alright.

It is wonderful that I am not with poor G. Smith.

I have not troubled about myself at all, but have been worrying about you all, as I know how anxious you would be at not getting any news, but you must not worry at all now as I am quite alright and do not feel the bit the worse for it at all now that we have had a bit of a rest.

Peter was right in what he said about where I was; I think that we should all like to go back to the ridge again for a bit of a change.

A.2.

Even the men who have always been so anxious to tell us what the war was like in 1914 have had to admit that these last few days have been worse: but I am glad to say that I don't really think that it can last much longer and am hoping for much brighter days soon. I do hope that you had nice Easter Services; I thought about you as much as I could, but think that that day was the worst we had: I know I never expected to live through it, but am hoping to have my Easter Services next Sunday, as most likely we shall be still out of the line.

I hope to send home Mr White's watch in a few days if you would be kind enough to look after it for me until I get back (D.V.). It has gone splendidly up to now, but think that this last week has given it a little "Shell-shock".

I shall not want it again as I have got another from a fellow I know for a few shillings, and I am so very much afraid that I shall lose it, and I should not like to do that, at all.

I tried to get this letter away yesterday but could not, and since then I have received your most welcome parcel of the 23rd.

I am enjoying it very much indeed and am looking forward to having the heart for supper.

It is good of you to send like you do and most brave of you to keep on writing when you get no news from me, but it was such a comfort to keep on getting them, and how they got them up to us I do not know.

I have also received a large parcel from Auntie Millie and the girls at No. 4. Isn't it good of them? and also a nice letter from Uncle Jess with 2/6 enclosed.

A.3.

I have sent them all a F.C. to let them know that I have received them safely, but was wondering if one of the girls would mind sending them a few lines to thank from me and tell them I will write myself at the first opportunity.

That friend of mine (Jack Bridgeman)¹⁰⁵ that brought home that brooch has just come back off leave and says how sorry he was not to have been able to come and see you: he has given me his photo which I am sending home for your book and for you to see.

Well Mammie dear, I think that this is all that I can say for now, but will write again as soon as I can, and hope very much that you will not worry at all if you do not get a line very often, but I shall always send a card when I can.

With very best love to all

from

Clifford.

P.S. I forgot to say that just before we went into action we had a draft come up and with it Mark Knight and Lily Major's husband. I had a few minutes talk with them, but since then I cant find them so don't know what has happened to them: if you hear, please let me know.

With love,

Clifford.

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Headquarters,
2nd Batt: Devon:Regt,
B. E. F.
France.
29. 4. 18

My Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It is with very deepest regret I have to write you these few lines to inform you that poor Clifford was killed in action on the night of the 24th/25th inst:
As the N.C.O. in charge of the Batt: Observers I can assure you that you have the deepest sympathy, not only of his Section, but of the whole of Headquarters, by whom he was very much respected. He was indeed a gentleman. One could not wish for a better fellow; it was an honour to have him in our Section, and I feel that we have not only lost a good comrade, but a personal friend who was ever ready to help others. It will be some consolation to you to know that he suffered no pain, death being instantaneous from a bullet wound in the head, and that he was laid to rest by his own comrades behind Villers B-----.
two parcels arrived for him today; their contents, (according to his expressed wishes) were divided among the rest of the section. One was from his Home, and the other from 4 Stevens Crescent, Totterdown, Bristol
I am enclosing a letter from each of the parcels, and one which came by post today.

Once more assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your great loss,

Your's very sincerely,

F. Goldsmith. Cpl.¹⁰⁶

2nd Devon: Regt.

May. 3rd. 1918.

Dear Mr Wallis,

I expect you have already heard the sad news of the death in action of 42825 Pte. C.E. Wallis, 2nd Batt: Devons on April 24th. I thought I would just send you a line to tell you how sorry I am. He was such a real good lad, very popular in the Battalion. Everyone respected him. I could always depend on him to help me at my services, and be with me at the Holy Communion. He was also a keen member of my choir. I am afraid that I can tell you next to nothing about his death. He and several others of the Observers were together, a shell seems to burst among them killing some and wounding others, who are in hospital, and I cannot ask them. We were unable to bring his body back for burial at the time, the shelling was too heavy. Not very long afterwards the Battalion was relieved, so we had to leave the burial of our dead to the unit that took over from us. Please accept our sincerest sympathy. May the Almighty Father, who has surely taken him into His safe keeping, help and comfort you in your present trouble. Thank God he is not lost, but only gone on before.

Your's sincerely,

Gregory Bateman.¹⁰⁷

C. of E. Chaplain.

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May 18th. 1918.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Thank you so very much for sending me Clifford's photo to see, I hope I may keep it. May I? i should so like to do so.

Another of my choir boys has just been killed. It is a sad war this; as many of the best go under. I hope to God it will all come to an end very soon now,

Your's sincerely,

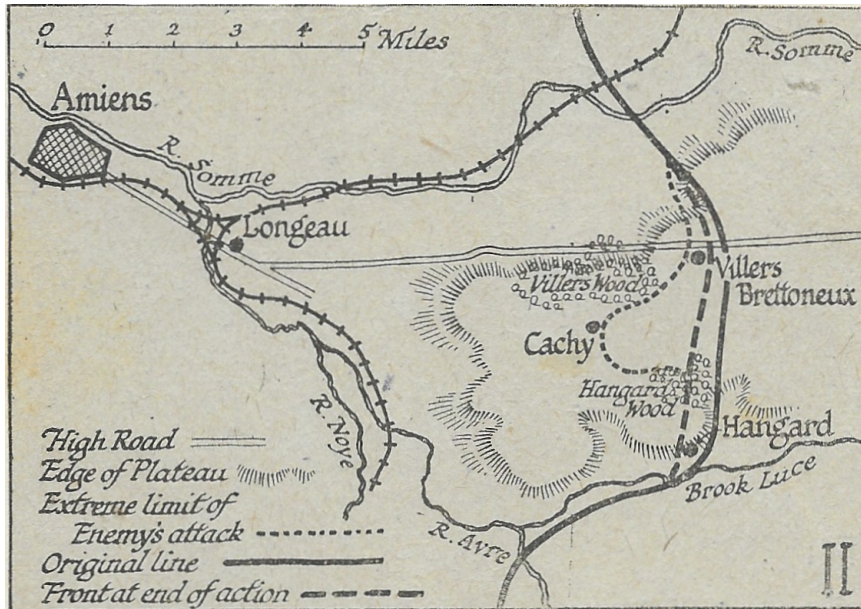
Gregory Bateman,

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AN ACCOUNT OF THE ACTION AT "VILLERS-BRETTONEUX, APRIL 24th--25th.

(with illustrative diagram attached)

It was in this action that Clifford was killed.



The action in front of Villers-Brettoneux was of great importance. There stands between the Somme River and the Brook Luce, a tributary of the Avre, a plateau about 150 feet above the water levels, rising in some places to as much as 180 feet, It is a bare rolling country-side of open fields, diversified only by two considerable tracks of wood, the smaller on the south known as Hangard Wood; the larger, on the north, called in various parts by various names, but better called, for the

purposes of our study, the Wood of Villers. This plateau is the last high ground between the junction of the Avre River with the Somme, and is therefore the last high ground directly in front of Amiens. From the edges of it the land falls away uninterruptedly to the great railway junction and works at Longeau, almost a suburb of Amiens, hardly more than three miles from the edge of the plateau, and entirely overlooked from it. Further, this plateau between the Somme and the Brook Luce, upon a trace of about 10,000 yards, carried the point of union between the British and the French forces. The escarpment of the plateau towards Amiens is not regular. It falls away sharply immediately behind the village of Villers-Brettonneux, but to the south it leans much further away and more gently westward. While immediately behind the village of Villers-Brettonneux and along the edge of the escarpment runs the big wood of which I have spoken, having about halfway along its southern edge the village of Cachy. To the south in the French line, on the edge of the Plateau overlooking the Brook Luce, are the ruins of the village of Hangard.

It will be clear from all this what the object of the enemy was in this neighbourhood. It was his task to thrust the British back over the edge of the Plateau and hold the village of Villers-Brettonneux; to work round the wood by the south at Cachy and to push the French back from Hangard. The attack as a whole was undertaken, as far as we can make out, by eight divisions, counting those who were trying to work round by the extreme south. Three divisions struck against the British along the high road starting from their original line about a thousand yards east of the village; while another three divisions attacked the French against the wood and village of Hangard down to the Luce. Meanwhile, apparently

two divisions (but the number is not given) fought hard to outflank the French by the south. The action began at half-past six in the morning of Wednesday, the 24th, after the usual intensive preliminary bombardment. Its general result was as follows:-

In the first attack it was repulsed along the whole line. In the second it entered the eastern edge of the wood of Hangard and the ruins of Hangard village. What is more important, it also in the second attack in which the German tanks appeared for the first time) carried the village of Villers-Brettoneux; reached the edge of the plateau, and, south of the wood, got to the outskirts of Cachy. This latter movement uncovered the French left flank and caused the French to leave Hangard. by the evening two more divisions had appeared against the British, and it was evident that the enemy intended a very serious operation.

But the point was altogether too important for the "selling of ground", which is the general policy of the defensive where there is opportunity for manouvre. A counter-attack was organised, and proved completely successful. Fighting continued throughout the night, and in the morning of Thursday, April 25th, the Germans were thrust back again far from Cachy (where some of the new British tanks did great execution) and by noon out of Villers-Brettoneux itself; the latter success being due to Australian troops co-operating with British battalions. The fighting for the village had gone on all during the night, and the consummation of the success covered the hours from seven in the morning onwards. About a thousand prisoners were left in British hands after the affair. The sum total of the action was that the enemy had completely failed to master the plateau. He had for the eighth time penetrated into Hangard village and wood (the line here is perpetually fluctuating), but these are far

from the edge of the plateau, Villers-Brettoneux, the essential point, he had gained, but lost again.

Once again we have to ask the question, impossible to answer with exactitude, what the cost to the enemy may have been? The nature of the attack proves it to have been considerable. For it was one in which more and more men had to be fed in, and yet in which the object was not accomplished. Also some of the best divisions available were used. There was in the first attack the 4th Division of the Prussian Guards which had already been used twice since March 21st, and which had been given a fortnight's rest, and its ranks fully replenished from its Berlin recruitment. A fresh division back from the Eastern front, the 77th Reserve- Westphalian in composition-- was also used. Two more divisions came in during the day; and prisoners were taken before the end of the thirty-six hours from yet two more, the 228th and the 243rd. It is not certain that the whole of these units were engaged..

As the British re-advanced over ground previously lost it was possible to make some estimate of the proportion of German dead, and the official despatch from Headquarters says that the number of these was exceptionally high. In other words the German effort at Villers-Brettoneux was not only a failure, but an exceptionally expensive one.

As usually the case when the enemy's plans go wrong, his dispatch on this occasion is misleading. He may very well be exact in claiming some 2,000 prisoners and 4 guns, for he made a rapid advance on the evening of the Wednesday. But to say that our counter-attacks broke down with sanguinary losses" is obvious nonsense, while to leave out all mention of the capture and re-capture of Villers-Brettoneux is equally ridiculous, the counter-attack was completely succesful. That, indeed, is the whole point of the action.

6 Windsor Terrace,
Totterdown,
Bristol,
5. 5. 18.

My dear Cliff: and Nellie,

We cannot express our sorrow at hearing the sad news of poor Clifford. We little thought when we saw him last looking so happy and bright that it would be the last time that we would see him here. We did enjoy the little time we had with him, a time which we shall never forget. Words cannot express our sorrow for you all in this your loss of such a dear boy; but we can be quite sure that our loss is his great gain. We shall be glad to hear from you to have more particulars, I have just written to tell our dear Cliff: the sad news. We are feeling most anxious about him all the time. This is a cruel war, taking all our dear boys from us, Trusting you are all as well as can be expected at this sorrowful time.

With fondest love from us both to you all,

Your loving

Brother and Sister,

Frank and Em:

"We loved him, Yes, No tongue can tell"

"How deep, how dearly, and how well".

"God loved him too, and thought it best"

"To take him Home--with Him to rest",

"Fold him, O Father, in thine arms",

"and let him henceforth be"

"A messenger of love between"

"Our human hearts and Thee".

4 Eaton Crescent,
Clifton,
Bristol.
3. 5. 18.

My dear Ones,

Since opening dear Fannie's letter this morning I have been in a black dream, and cannot believe that the news is true. What you are all feeling like I cannot imagine, it is much too dreadful to be realised. Although I knew the darling boy was set in the midst of so many and great dangers. I was so hoping he would come through it with only wounds. I felt it was not possible he could come out of such a sea of fire quite safely. God knows best, and He has done the best, though just now we cannot help crying out against it. My heart aches for you, dear Cliff: and Nellie, and I can say nothing that will comfort you both. Time alone will do that, for as the days pass by, you will be cheered, knowing that you will the sooner meet your dear laddie again. You are, my dears, blessed in the feeling of the sure certain hope that you will see him again. Our dear boy lived his short life nobly here, and he has died a glorious death, making the Great Sacrifice for his country and dear ones. I feel so sad for all of you, his dear brothers and sisters. Those few hours he spent here, such a precious memory to us now, and ones we feel so grateful for, The dear boy was full of talk about you all: he was so pleased to show us his bits of photo that he was treasuring so carefully, and gave us little accounts of each. We shall be so anxious to know any details that you may be able to gain about the dear laddie's last days. I posted the letter to Totterdown at once. Miss Errington¹⁰⁸ and

Emily¹⁰⁹ wished me to say how full of sympathy they feel for you all. I hope you will be able to read this, but I don't really know how I am writing. With my best love to you all, and my deepest sympathy, believe my dear Ones,

Ever your's lovingly,

Millie.

.

4 Eaton Crescent,
Clifton,
Bristol.
6. 5. 18.

My dear Nellie and Cliff,

I have been thinking so much about you and all your dear ones in your sorrow and loss, which you have not even begun to realise. It came as a terrible shock to us all here, for we had been so hoping that our bright and bonny boy would be spared to us. Our loss will be his gain, and happily too, not a present one but an eternal; no more suffering and labour such as he has been going through lately. I am so glad to have a copy of the letter you received; it is so nice to know how well his comrades thought of the dear boy. We who knew him so well know that the highest they could have held him in was not too high for dear Clifford. It is a comfort to know that he was not allowed to suffer, and that his comrades were able to lay him to rest. It is a consolation denied to thousands of others who are mourning. I hope, my dears, that you are keeping as well as it is possible for you to do under the the heavy trial that is yours, God alone can comfort you, and He will do it if only

you can feel that it is in love He chastens. With very much love to all of you, and the deepest sympathy,

Believe me, my dear Ones,

Your's lovingly,

Millie.

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Alwalton,
Peterborough,
4. 5. 18.

My dear Cliff: and Nellie,

Words fail me to tell you how grieved we are for you all. As far as the feeling of great loss, you know that we can feel that to the greatest depth. May God help you in this great hour of trial and affliction, and a great trial it will be. Now is the time to pray "Increase our faith". I know what it is. The temptation to just let things go to the winds, and go on just like thousands of others is very great at these times. I prayed night and day for our boy, but he was taken. I have prayed night and day that your Boy might be kept safe, and you spared the awful blow that we have suffered, but with the same result. Two or three young fellows we knew living round here have all been taken this last week or two, the brightest and best of the land. When will it cease? This has brought back all the terrible anguish we felt when we heard that our dear boy had gone. Dear Clifford, it is too hard to think that we shall not see him come home. I only wrote to the dear boy the beginning of last week. He is the fourth boy I have written to after they have passed away. Now, my dear ones, I know words are only poor comfort at these times, and only time will

take away the keenness of the trial.

All our thoughts, love, and sympathy are for you.

Your loving,

Nell and Jess.

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Victoria Barracks,

Rawalpindi.

N. W. India.

28. 6. 18.

My dear Nellie, Cliff: and Family,

Your letter just arrived this morning conveying the news of poor Clifford's death. I cannot tell you how sorry I am to hear it. You have my deepest sympathy in your great loss. I will write you later in the day, only the mail is leaving at 10. a,m, this morning, and I have only just received that information, and I would like you to get this by it.

With very best love to all,

Your loving Brother and Uncle

Jim.

.

27 Broughton Road.

Ealing.

5. 5. 18.

My dearest Nellie and Cliff;

Glady's letter with the awful news of your darling Clifford's death came as a great shock to me so I am sure how much you must feel it. I cannot express in words my deepest

sympathy to you ail in your loss, but try and feel that it was for the best that he was killed instantaneously, for to see some of the poor fellows about here with both legs or both arms off, blind, or face nearly gone, is most wicked, I feel so grateful to know that Jim is not in France, and Bob¹¹⁰ not yet to be called up, although he is over 17 years of age now. I have been hoping to get a line from you to say dear Clifford had been home as you expected him on leave. All the dear young fellows seem to be sent out, only to be mown down. When will this wretched war end? Now they are calling men up to 50 it will make a great difference everywhere. I am sure Jim will be very upset, for he was very fond of Clifford, and could not speak highly enough of him. We have been with you in thought all day, for we know that you will have a special service. I must now close with our most sincere sympathy to you all, and united love,

Ever your loving sister,

Janie.¹¹¹

.

The Parsonage.

Oulton.

Leeds.

4. 5. 18.

My darling Nellie and Cliff;

Dear Gladys's letter just received. Oh if only I could be with you now in your great sorrow, I hardly know how to write, but you know how I feel. There is one comfort to feel, our darling Clifford did not suffer, I will write more tomorrow. Cello¹¹² is just off to Leeds, so I will get her to post this, I do so hope

you will get it tomorrow, May God comfort you all is my prayer for you.

Your most loving sister,

Bobbie.

.

The Parsonage.

Oulton.

Leeds,

5. 5. 18.

My darling Nellie and Cliff;

It was only such a hurried scrawl that I sent you yesterday. Our post was late in coming, and Cello was just off to Leeds for her dancing class so I got her to post it, and so hope that you got it this morning. I do not know how to write, I feel so sorry for you all. It does seem so hard to believe that the dear boy has gone from us. I have thought of you so much today, how I could picture you all when the sad news came, and also see you all so bravely going to Church today. My poor darlings, if only I could help or comfort you in any way. When I think of what a happy, loving family you are, and what dear Clifford was to you all, it makes my art ache for you all, Do ask dear Gladys to write again and let us know how you all are, and what further news you get, I know you will not feel like writing yourself. Cello will post this on her way to Sunday School. Good-bye my darlings, may God bless and comfort you in His own good time, as only He can.

Your loving sister,

Bobbie.

Weir Road
Kilworth.
Leicester.
3. 5. 18.

My darling Nellie,Cliff; and All,

Teenie's letter has just come by this afternoon's post telling of your sad loss. Oh, my dears, I am truly sorry for you all in this great trouble, I was so hoping and praying dear Clifford would be spared to come back safe and sound to you. But for some wise purpose we know not of, he has been called Home to his rest. Whatever must be the joy of peace to him now, poor lad, after all the fearful turmoil he has been through of late? Truly you can say he has done his bit. I have never had time to answer Mummy's lovely long letter. I was more than pleased to get it. It was so nice hearing all about dear Torquay again. You will not want to be bothered with letters now, so I will close. God bless you all, and give you help in your present trouble, I think about you all, though I do not often write. With heaps of loving sympathy,

Ever your loving Sister and Auntie,
Hettie.

.

The Yew Tree,
Dymock,
Gloucester,
8. 5. 18.

Dear Nellie,

We received a letter from Bobbie this morning telling

of your great loss. Will you and Cliff: accept mine and Ralph's¹¹³ deepest as in your great trouble. I wonder if we dare to trust and pray it will turn out not to be true. How I wish this terrible war would end. I am very much afraid we shall have to part with our eldest boy¹¹⁴ next year if they are going to take them at 15 years. I have got my second boy Ray¹¹⁵ in bed today. I am expecting the doctor to come any minute. I am afraid he is sickening for something. Now I must close. With best love from all, and deepest sympathy,

Your loving sister,

Jillie.¹¹⁶

.

Wolstaston Rectory,
Lebotwood,
Shrewsbury,
Salop.
5. 5. 18.

My dear Nellie,

This morning I have received your letter sent on by dear Hettie with the news of dear Clifford's death. May God comfort and sustain you all, as He alone can. Clifford's is a beautiful life suddenly raised into a still more beautiful and full one. His joy must be great. But to all of you of course his loss is a terrible grief. You have my loving sympathy and earnest prayers, that strength may be given to you all to bear up through this severe trial, and that every consolation may be sent to you. God bless you all.

With love,

Your loving sister,

Lily.¹¹⁷

Bexley Villa,
Woodville,
Burton-on-Trent,
9. 5. 18.

My dear Nellie,

I was much distressed at the very sad news your letter of the 7th (which only reached me yesterday) contained. I have wondered many times lately, with all this awful slaughter, where Clifford was. I did not know what regiment he was in, or I should have been able to judge. You will be quite sure, without my saying it, that you all have my most sincere and heartfelt sympathy in your sad trouble and bereavement. I often think that our language is sadly wanting in words in which to give adequate expression to our feelings, and whatever we write seems comparatively cold, but I know very well that you will understand what my feelings are, and which I feel I lack the means to express. One thing I am certain of, and that is, that you will know where to seek for true consolation; and that is a Source which never fails. The sympathy of all who know you will most assuredly be a great source of comfort to you, and you will also be further comforted with the recollection of Clifford as he was, which recollection will never fade, but will always be a bright spot. It will indeed be a blessed time when this awful war is ended. It is sad when we come to think of all the bright young lives that have been sacrificed; all the destruction and untold misery that has been caused. And for what? Only an insane lust for world-power of one man, whose ruling passion, together with that of many of his own country-men has been for years to rule the world

and whose blasphemous utterances must cause all right thinking people to positively shudder. It is not for us to judge, but it would appear almost certain that a heavy punishment awaits all those who have engaged the whole world into such a welter of blood and misery. We are feeling the effects of it all here in Woodville very much. Scarcely a week passes without one or more of our young men who are at the front being either killed or wounded. Many have died of wounds, and now more men are being taken, so that it is very difficult to get sufficient men to carry on even our sadly decreased business. Ten more have gone from our works, and more are under notice to go. I quite expect to have to part with another of my office staff, which will mean extra work, but it will have to be done. I do not know that I have much to say about myself, except that I am very thankful to be able to say that I keep in the best of health, and also that my leg is much better, and I am looking forward to being able to be nearly as active as I used to be, which will be a great blessing after over four years of intense pain and suffering which at times seemed almost insupportable. I shall be glad of a line at any time when you feel inclined or have time to write, but I know that your time must be fully occupied. I must close now with my best love to you all, and may God Almighty bless and comfort you in your heavy trouble,

Ever your loving brother,

Charlie.¹¹⁸

.

37 Vassall Road.

London, S.W.9.

26. 6. 18.

My dear Nellie,

It was only yesterday on meeting poor Hettie that I heard about your very sad loss. I am indeed very sorry for you all. You must feel poor Clifford's death terribly as, even from the little I have heard of you all at times, I know how very dear he was to you all, and his affection in return. It does seem terrible that one so young should have to sacrifice his life in this awful war. But the knowledge that he died facing death bravely for the sake of duty must be some little comfort to you in your great trial and sorrow. With sincerest sympathy for you all and my love,

Your affectionate cousin,

Arthur.¹¹⁹

.

12 Avon Crescent.

Cumberland Road.

Bristol.

7. 5. 18.

My dear Mummy, Daddy, and All,

I am writing to say how very sorry Millie and myself are to hear the sad news of dear Clifford. You must please excuse my letter as you know how utterly impossible it is for me to express our sympathy deeply enough, and knowing Clifford as we always knew him we cannot realise that he is gone from us. But dear Mummy, we know he is gone home to those we love, and we must

not wish him back to this world of strife. He seems so young to be called away, but he was quite ready to go; he is the one to gain, and we and all who knew him are the losers; for no one could know Clifford and not love him. He was always so bright and happy and Willing to help anyone. Well, I hope that you will forgive my short letter, but you will know that I am unable to write what I should like to say. With love to all from all,

I remain,

Your loving boy,

Les:

.

173 Reading Road.

Henley on Thames.

5. 5. 18.

My dear Teenie,

I do indeed feel truly sorry for you all in your great loss. One does pray each day that their loved ones may be kept safe, but it seems it is not to be in some cases. If one can think or get any comfort out of it, it is as our dear Grannie¹²⁰ used to tell us, that it makes us all the more eager to go, in order to meet our dear ones on the other side. This must be a sad Sunday for you all, and when you have time I should love a copy of the letter. I must think of the dear boy as I last saw him with Francie as we went through Teignmouth station. Tom¹²¹ has often talked of the clock that he was making. I will try and come and see you for a day this summer. I have not been to Bristol since last September. I will not write more. With much love and sympathy to you all,

Your loving cousin,

Mabel.¹²²

4 Stevens Crescent,
Totterdown,
Bristol,
4. 5. 18.

Dear Uncle Cliff: and Aunt Nellie,

We are indeed grieved at the sad,
sad news received yesterday. We had been dreading it for so long,
and yet hoping against hope, and praying that he would be spared to
come home to you. When we think of his bright smiling face when he
was with us such a short time ago we cannot believe his work here
is finished. We know, only too well, what a blank it will make in
the happy family circle, and are tempted to ask why such things are
allowed to be. But we know they are in Higher Hands than ours, and
He will give strength to bear the trouble He sends. We are very sad
when we think of your great loss, but indeed words are poor comfort.
You know how we shall all think of you all. Best love to all from
us both.

Your's lovingly,

Daisy.

.

16 Dock Road,
Sharpness,
6. 5. 18.

My dear Uncle Cliff: and Aunt Nellie,

We have just heard from Bristol
telling us of your great loss for which we feel deeply sorry for you.
The blow is terrible, but I trust the Almighty will give you the

strength to bear it. It is a comfort to know that the dear boy did not suffer any pain, and we know that the clean good life he lead leaves no doubt as to his soul being at rest. We had a beautiful sermon here on Sunday night to the local lads we have lost, and I thought of you all the time. Another thing which will always make us think of dear Clifford is that our organ was built by Hele and Son, of which I dare say you have heard Mildred is the organist. But it is terrible beyond words to lose our loved ones. Good-bye my dear Uncle and Aunt.

Your's lovingly,

Kate and Fred.¹²³

.

France.

17. 5. 18.

Dear Uncle Cliff: and Aunt Nellie,

Just a few lines to tell you how sorry I was to hear that poor Clifford has been killed. It was hard lines for him going through the thick of the fighting to fall at the end. I know how you must all feel at losing him, especially having him home on leave so short a time ago. Please accept my sympathy for the blow that has fallen. There are none who can tell what a blow it is except those who have passed through it. It is very hot out here at present, but we are having lovely weather. The war does not seem like finishing yet. We are holding the Germans better, but it will be a blessing when it all comes to an end. I am glad to say I am quite well, but very busy, and have hardly got any time to myself. I am sorry I cannot write more now. With best

love to you all, and trusting that you are all quite well.

I remain,

Your loving nephew,

Cliff:

.

40 Windsor Terrace,
Totterdown.
Bristol.
Monday.

Dear Uncle Cliff: and Aunt Nellie,

Please accept my deepest sympathy for you all, with your sad news of dear Clifford. I do feel so sorry for you, also for my cousins, as it is so hard not to have the chance of saying good-bye. We which have our dear ones out there, can share out anxiety with one another, but now, yours is over, and we know that Clifford is far happier where he is, but the loss of him is great, and felt by the dear ones left behind. I have written and told my Clifford last Friday, we all know how sorry he will be. Trusting you are keeping well under the circumstances,

I remain,

Your loving niece,

Elsie.¹²⁴

.

Plymouth.

8/5/18.

My dear Mummy and All,

As I have so long to wait for my examination this morning, I thought I could not better employ the time than in writing to you. So I went to the Guildhall and am at present sitting in one of the seats inditing this letter.

I did not feel up to preaching last Sunday and had that sergeant not been there that I told you of I should have sent the people home without any address.

The sergeant gave a very nice address on the text "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me".

After the service was over my thoughts were continually about you all (I was thinking of and praying for you all the time) and as thoughts will, they shaped themselves round the matter that is uppermost in our minds. I thought of Clifford and it seemed to me that the text of the sermon was a very comforting one in that God has lifted him up to Himself.

The act of the lifting up of Christ was one of sacrifice for the sod of the whole world. We carry his image with us and as we go through life we must lift that image clear of earthly things that often corrupt it, and in such lives as Clifford's this is done in such a way that in spite of what people profess concerning matters of religion, they are bound to respect the person on account of the inner character revealed. But the most sublime of all these manifestations in our lives is the spirit of sacrifice and in this to follow most closely the steps of our Master. Clifford, by the

sacrifice that he has made for us all, lifted up the Image of the Redeemer in himself even to heaven and it is in this way that God drawn him as He has drawn many other noble souls to Himself, and through them has also drawn us closer to Himself, and closer to one another.

Where our heart is, there will our treasure be also, If we think of Clifford we must also think of Jesus with Whom he is now.

"I would not have you mourn too much for death"

"It is but as the rose which climbs the garden wall"

"And blossoms on the other side".

"Death doth hide, but not divide"

"Thou art but on Christ's other side".

"Thou art in Christ, and Christ in me"

"In Christ united both are we".

I know that God took one little bud from you Mummy, and now Clifford like a bud almost expanded into bloom has been taken to join Donnie, We who remain must endeavour to make up for their lost fragrance which is now being shed abroad in heaven, by the sweetness of our own lives. This I am sure is what Clifford would have us do.

We must make ourselves worthy of the magnitude of the sacrifices that such boys as Clifford have made.

With prayers and fondest love for all,

I remain ,

Ever your's Affectionately,

Jess.

.

Gardenholme,
Holcombe,
Dawlish.
5. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It was with deep regret we received your letter telling us of your Clifford being killed in action. It must be a great trial to you all, but a great consolation to know he has always been a good boy, and given his life for his country. We hope you will bear up as well as you can through it, and you know where to get strength to make the burden lighter, and even then it is very hard to give up our dear ones in this way. It is another instance of our best being sacrificed for the wickedness of man. I wonder when this awful murder (we can call it no other) is going to stop. It really seems to be going worse from day to day. It is a great comfort to you to have a letter from one that saw his end, and to know how he was buried, and not left to suffer, and be tortured. But with it all it cannot repair your great loss, With kind regards our deep sympathy,

Believe me

Your's sincerely

E. Bolt.¹²⁵

.

Elstow.
Yealmpton.
9. 5. 18.

My dear Old Cliff:

It was with feelings of great sorrow we read in

the paper of the very sad loss you have just experienced. Both Mrs Brown and I wish to convey our deepest sympathy to you and Mrs Wallis in this great trial, The awful war is casting its widening influence on all our homes, and taking those in whom our brightest hopes have centred, and we find it difficult to see the wisdom and love which we believe over-rules all. I am indeed grateful that so far, my own boys have been spared. The youngest¹²⁶ is now somewhere in the Ypres district. He has a commission in a Labour Coy there. My second boy¹²⁷ spent last year in France, and then was sent home with trench fever. He is now just passed as fit again. The eldest¹²⁸ has so far been exempted, being in a low category, and employed at Somerset House, but to join tomorrow under the latest regulations. We hope that other members of your family are keeping well. It is so long since we wrote to each other that I am afraid I have almost forgotten the order in which they come, but I hope no other child of yours is exposed to these terrible dangers, I shall be glad to hear how you are all keeping, and I hope you may have strength given you to bear the heavy blow which has fallen upon you.

With kindest love and sympathy,

I remain

Your's as of old.

Jack.¹²⁹

.

60 Sandford Street.
Newtown.
Exeter.
16. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Please accept our deepest sympathy in your great loss, Clifford was indeed a good young fellow, and would be loved and respected wherever he went, dear boy. It is some consolation to get such details as your card shows, for there are so many lost in this dreadful war about whom no particulars can be ascertained. I am quite sure you all must feel his loss very deeply.

With our deepest sympathy,

Your's very sincerely,

S. R. Brown.¹³⁰

.

Ness Cottage.
Shaldon.
Teignmouth.
21. 5. 18.

My dear Mr Wallis,

I have been from home, and have not always seen the papers, and I have only just heard of your sad loss and of the death of poor Clifford. I feel deeply for you and Mrs Wallis and all of you, and I feel it myself for I have known and valued him from almost a little child, and I have watched with great interest his progress in all that was good and promising for a noble career in this world-- and now that career is to be in the better world beyond

this world's troubles and trials. Though you must be grieving acutely I am sure you must feel that you have offered the Great Sacrifice for King and Country, and that highest promotion has come to him, far beyond any earthly honour; and we must look forward to being worthy of meeting him who will welcome you each as you pass through the veil to him,

Believe me,

Your's ever sincerely

W. Bevil Browne.¹³¹

.

9 Avon Street,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

6. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

I hardly know how to write to you, as you are passing through the same sad trouble as I am. Please accept my deepest sympathy with you in your terrible loss. The hand of death seems to be in every home, and when it comes into our own homes it seems almost too hard to bear, so we must feel deeply for each other. It is sad to think that after we have brought up our dear children to be a comfort to us, they are called away, and that we are not permitted to see them any more, nor to have the last look at them. I do hope, dear Mrs Wallis, that you will bear up all you can, and may God give you His help in this trying time. We must think about our dear ones as they are at rest, and hope to meet the dear lads in Heaven, where there will be no more parting. I often think of my other two boys out there and wonder what their

fate is going to be. I do wish this dreadful war would end soon. I hope that Jesse was able to come up and see you, I do feel so thankful to think that you were able to see your dear son so lately. Now I must close with kind love to you all, and again asking you to accept my sincere sympathy with you all,

I remain,

Your's sincerely

E. Browne.¹³²

.

Hazel House,
Kingsteignton,
S. Devon.
4. 5. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

The news of your dear Clifford's death has made us sad indeed so sad that I can scarcely find words to express our sorrow and deep sympathy with you and your dear children. The dear lad gave such promise of a career of usefulness and devotion that one can scarcely realise that it has come to an end. He willingly took the risks of a war, placing himself under God's protection, and we may well believe that having done his duty in this life, he has been called to higher work in the Home above. He was a dear boy, and you must have memories of him which you will cherish as long as life shall last. He gave me, by his diligence, perseverance and success, one of the greatest pleasures of my life, and you must be comforted by the thought of many such experiences. He has, we may be certain, received the "Well done", and we can

only say "Thy will be done" hard though it be. With deepest sympathy and prayers that you may be comforted in your sad bereavement,

Your's very sincerely

T. Butland.

.

No 32 Mess,
H.M.S. Glorious.
10. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I was so sorry to hear about poor Clifford, Mother told me in her letter, and I could hardly believe it was true, Thank you so much for sending his memorial card, it was a nice letter the N.C.O. and the words on the outside were very true, and he has done the best that any man can do for his friends and country. But I know it must be an awful trial for you, as you all were so devoted to him, and he was such a nice fellow. Please accept my deepest sympathy in your great loss,

I remain,

Your's very sincerely

W. H. Cockram.¹³³

.

R. R. No 1.
Inverrary,
Kingston,
Ontario,
Canada.
4. 8. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I must thank you very much for your nice letter and also for the photo of poor Clifford. I was so sorry to hear about Clifford being killed. I remember him better as a little fellow going to school with curly hair like his Dad. He always had a smile for me and everybody that he knew, and I feel sure that we can picture him going down for his country with a smile. This is a terrible war and we all wish it was over. It has brought sorrow to thousands, and it is hard to say who will be struck next. You have done so much to comfort others in this war that it does seem hard that you should have this trial brought upon you. I guess by this time that Philip has been home on sick leave. I would like to see him as it will soon be four years since he left me in his uniform with nothing more than a brass button, but today it is different. Mr Wallis ought to be proud of his School, his boys are all over the world and I would much like to have all their records: it would make good reading. We have a nice home here. We keep 3 cows, and 2 calves, besides lets of poultry. We have also a nice garden here with vegetables in plenty; quite a lot that will not grow in England, We are doing fairly well. Of course, the war is a handicap now. Our two boys are growing finely. Jim went to Sunday School

this morning. Canada is a great country for those who want to get on, and there is room for all that are in England. We have very hard winters, but as long as one knows how to keep warm it is alright and as soon as spring comes again we forget all about it. Hoping this finds you all well and with our best wishes to you all,

Your's sincerely,

Peter Coombe.

.

42 High Street,
Scunthorpe,
Lincs.
4. 5. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Just as I was leaving for Doncaster this morning I received a letter from Mother telling me of your great loss. What can I say at such a time? I felt that a break had come from a friendship which dates from childhood. Please accept my sincerest sympathy with you all. I had often wondered how he was faring out yonder and the news came as a terrible shock. Poor old boy, no time for a good-bye, but I am quite sure that in the moment of death his thoughts were with you all. I know how devoted he was. It seems only a few days since I saw him, and how keen he was to be at it. I had so looked forward to a visit from him bye-and-bye for my wife¹³⁴ is a keen musician and they would have been food friends at once. One by one they go, and life gets more empty every day. The day we got back from our honeymoon we got the of the death in action of my wife's sister's boy- killed in the first rush of the

offensive, and he had arranged leave to act as best man for me as Philip could not come. And now poor old Clifford too. When will this terrible war be over? The wastage of our finest manhood and even boyhood is too over-whelming, and yet it seems that the sacrifice is essential if righteousness and equity must stand supreme. You have one comforting thought in the fact that his heart was true and the words of the old familiar hymn will bring peace and even joy to you all in the knowledge that "On that happy Easter morning, -----father, sister, child and mother, meet once more".

With my very deepest sympathy with you all,

Believe me,

Your's very sincerely,

Paul Coombe.¹³⁵

.

The Clintons,
Dawlish, Road.
Teignmouth.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I felt I must write to tell you how sorry I am to hear that Clifford is killed. I heard from Lois¹³⁶ this morning, I know what a blow it must be to all of you. It is hard not to be able to see him again in this world, but he has died a hero's death, and I pray that God will comfort you. Annie joins with me in sympathy.

with kindest regards,

Your's sincerely,

Alice Coombe.¹³⁷

South View,
Moretonhampstead.
13. 5. 18.

My dear Wallis,

I am exceedingly sorry to hear of the death of your dear boy who has so nobly sacrificed his life for us in this terrible war. Both Mrs Cox and myself wish to express our deepest sympathy with Mrs Wallis and yourself in the great loss you have sustained and we trust that the Great Master will comfort and strengthen you in this great trial.

Your's sincerely,

Matthew S. Cox.¹³⁸

.

Thornhills
Spring Gardens,
Teignmouth.
4. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I feel I must just send a tiny line to tell you how dreadfully sorry I am to hear your very sad news. It is impossible to express one's feelings in writing, but I know how brave you will all be. With sincerest sympathy,

Your's sincerely,

Helen Eddis.¹³⁹

.

Keyberry Park,
Newton Abbot.
2. 5. 18.

My dear Wallis and All of you,

I am ever so sorry, -so are we all.

There are some that I think of--almost but not quite--as often as I think of Bob¹⁴⁰--and poor old Clifford was one of them. You will have many comforting reflections that will ease the ache, but they will not bring the poor boy back to you. None of us know how soon our friends may be saying the same things to us. Bob has been all in the late fighting and we hear that he is entirely knocked up, that the M.O. has ordered him back to some other lines for a few days rest. We know nothing further, I wish I could do something for you all. It seems so helpless to say that I am sorry. I am.

Your's very sincerely,

Wm. C. England.¹⁴¹

.

Kingkerswell,
S.Devon.
12. 5. 18.

Dear Mr Wallis,

We are all extremely sorry to hear of the great trouble that has fallen upon you and Mrs Wallis by the loss of your son Clifford. It may be some little comfort to you in your trouble to know that you the sympathy of every one who knows you or knew your son. At the Teign and Dart Committee meeting yesterday it was unanimously agreed that I should write conveying to you the sympathy

the whole Teign and Dart Association of teachers. The resolution was feelingly supported by the Vice-President (Mr King)¹⁴² who has already experienced a similar sorrow. May I too join in that expression of sympathy and hope that you and your's may have health and strength to bear the blow which has so swiftly fallen upon you all.

I remain,

Your's sincerely.

A. England.¹⁴³

.

The Hawthorns,
Kingsteignton.

11. 5. 18.

Dear Friends,

Most sincerely do we sympathise with you in the passing of dear Clifford. Having known him all his life, admiring his beautiful character, and knowing the life of usefulness which apparently was before him we do, and we are certain you must, feel his loss a heavy trial. The knowledge that he gave his life for his country and for so good a cause must be a consolation to you all. We join with all who knew and loved him in assuring you and also his sisters and bothers of our heart-felt sympathy. We pray that God will comfort you each and give you the strength needful to bear this burden. Pray believe us,

Your's very cordially,

C. and E. Freestone.¹⁴⁴

.

Huntly,
Bishop's Teignton.
2. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

Surely the terrible news we have just heard is not true? I cannot, cannot believe it. It seems only a few days ago when I had the pleasure of seeing his bright face when he was so happily walking with you and your daughter in Teignmouth. He looked so perfectly contented. The shock must be terrible for you and the loss is overwhelming. To lose such a son is heart-breaking. I can only pray that the Great Healer of hearts will be your stay and comfort now. With my deepest sympathy to you and Mr Wallis and the family,

Your's sincerely,

Annie L. Green.¹⁴⁵

.

Huntly,
Bishop's Teignton.
18. 5. 18.

Dear Mr Wallis,

I was very grieved to hear of the loss of your very gallant son. It is a heavy blow for you all to bear, and I am glad that you have the deep consolation that faith gives. You must be proud too, that your son did so splendidly as a soldier and won such affection and regard from his comrades. He always seemed to me to be such a splendid young fellow. With sincerest sympathy with you all.

I remain,

Your's very truly,

Wilfred B. Green.¹⁴⁶

Sunnymount.

Teignmouth.

3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis and Family,

Words fail to express the heart-felt sorrow I feel in learning of the terrible loss of your dear son. may God give you all strength to bear this very sad trial. In the midst of your trouble you still have a bit of sunshine--in knowing that your boy died in serving his King and Country, and more important still, that he died in serving his God, and your sad loss will be his great gain. With our deepest sympathy,

Ever sincerely your's,

F. Groves.

.

5 Castle Street,

Totnes.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis and Family,

My wife and myself send you our united sympathy in your great sorrow which has fallen on you in the loss of your son. We feel that even if we tried, we could not say how sorry we are for you all and trust that with all at Bishop's Teignton joining in sympathy with you all it may help you to bear this great sorrow you are called upon to bear in losing dear Clifford. You have always been so kind to us all, that I feel sure that you will accept this in the true spirit we send it.

Your's in great sympathy,

Joseph¹⁴⁷ and R. Harris.¹⁴⁸

Kingsteignton,
Newton Abbot.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Your letter was a surprise, The last thing I ever thought about was the sad news it contained. Both Mrs Hawker¹⁴⁹ and myself are extremely sorry and feel particularly the great loss that has been your's; especially as we knew Clifford better than anyone else who has made the Great Sacrifice. Thoughts various incidents arise, but words fail me, above all however, there is one certainty, that as far as Clifford is concerned, all is well. Mr Butland and Mrs Beer heard the news last evening and came to tell us, but we were out. Thus your letter's arrival this morning was a shock,

Your's very sincerely,

Harry W. Hawker.¹⁵⁰

.

3 Danes Road,
EXETER.
17. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

My husband and I were deeply grieved and shocked when we received the news of your poor Clifford's death, knowing so well what a good dutiful son you had lost in the flesh. It must indeed be a terrible blow, which time alone can heal somewhat. We ask you to accept our deepest sympathy. It must be a be a very great comfort to you to feel that he was such a good son. I am sure all who knew him respected him for his amiable nature. He would not

I am sure, have you grieve for him more than you can possibly help, but live with him in communion of spirit and in the trust of one day meeting him again. My husband has often talked of him, as we met him on the very morning he was going away he passed the remark what a splendid character he was. Me you do not know, but Clifford did. Having cares of our own I think the blow must be terrible. With our very Kindest regards and thoughts,

Your's very truly,

W. and B. Helmore.¹⁵¹

.

20 O. C. B.
Twezeldown Camp,
Fleet,
Hants.

My dear Mrs Wallis and All,

I thought I must write a few lines to you. Lettie¹⁵² and Alice¹⁵³ join me in much sympathy in your great loss. We can hardly believe it is true. We had such a shock when Ethel¹⁵⁴ wrote and told us. We should have written before, but we have had to be vaccinated and when we heard about it our arms were at their worst and we were not able to write. We are so pleased to hear that poor Clifford did not suffer; such a good fellow did not deserve to suffer. This is a dreadful war for us all and there seems no end to it. We are thinking of coming home at the end of June as our boys go for good. Now I must close with deepest sympathy, I remain,

Your's sincerely,

Frances Hodson.¹⁵⁵

2 Victoria Terrace,

Shaldon.

10. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I have just read of your terrible loss in the calling Home of your dear boy Clifford. I felt I must at once write to you to say how sorry we are at the news and how deeply we sympathise with you in your grief. It seems incredible that such a splendid happy young fellow as he was, and so full of promise should be taken. But how nobly and generously has he given up his young life for us who are left behind, and for righteousness? May God sustain you and Mrs Wallis in the great sacrifice He has asked you to make. As parents we know a little of what this must mean to you. We feel also, something of the unspeakable debt we owe to him. May grace and strength be given to you all till you see him again. Please do not attempt to answer this, we understand.

Believe us to be,

Your's very sincerely,

H. and F. Jackman.¹⁵⁶

.

Ipplepen,

Newton Abbot.

7. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Have just casually seen in a paper lent me of the loss of your eldest son in this great world tragedy, and hasten to express the deepest sympathy of my wife and self with you all in this your very sad bereavement. It stands much to his credit

that he displayed no little keenness to take his manly part in this struggle against forces of unparalleled evil in this world's history. He plainly knew the risks he was taking, like the heroic millions that have already fallen. Let us devoutly hope and pray that they will not have died in vain, and that in His own good time, the world will be a happier and healthier abode for mankind. One of my boys--the younger one--tried three or four times to join the Canadian fighting forces, and was eventually accepted into a constructive battalion, and after 10½ years absence woke us up at 5.a.m, to welcome him home. He has been in Scotland since the Autumn of 1916, but the wet cold weather of the Grampians knocked him over with rheumatism from which we hope he is recovering. We have just heard tonight that there is a chance of his coming home on short leave. He is now married, and we have one grandson in Edmonton, Alberta, another Robert Edwin, just 11 months old. I enclose a photo of a light railway his corps constructed, which may interest you. I have had the great pleasure of welcoming two sons of an old Cornish friend of mine who went to Tasmania 35 years ago. One alas, is not, for he heroically laid down his life while volunteering for dangerous duty last October. The other has developed valvular heart trouble, and is returning to Tasmania. It is a soul-inspiring thought this meeting of manly fellows from our scattered dominions in defence of what we have learned to hold most dear. Judging from the colonials I have conversed with, they are in the great majority, a credit to our race. Notwithstanding the serious set-back and disappointments we have had to endure I think there is much to be thankful for, and to brighten our hopes in the ultimate success of

our cause. I feel the enemy has tried his hardest without being able to secure his objectives. Let us hope that in his further efforts he will also fail, It is our fervent hope that you may be bouyed up in your bereavement, and may continue to be a great and useful influence in your sphere of labour. With our united kindest regards and best wishes to you all,

Believe me,

Your's very sincerely,

R. E. Jago.¹⁵⁷

.

7 The Crescent,
Teignmouth.
9. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Dr Johnson is at present seriously ill at Hermosa Nursing Home, or he would have written to you himself. He has asked me to tell you how very deeply grieved he is to hear your sad news, He feels that your son must have died a gallant death, and wishes me to thank you very much for sending him the Memorial form.

Your's very truly,

W. A. Fraser.¹⁵⁸

for Dr. Johnson.¹⁵⁹

.

Longlands.

Dawlish.

14. 5. 18.

My dear Wallis,

It is unnecessary to write my sympathy, as you know that you have that. I am in the same trouble, and curiously enough, although my boy was killed on Sept: 20th last, the definite news from the War Office only came just about the time you had yours. The last and only news we have is a letter from the C.O. saying that the last that was seen of him was, that he was pressing on with the few men left, but his body was never found, nor did anyone actually see him fall, as all the Batt:(King's Liverpools) were killed by noon. The wife and self are in lodgings, having let our house. All our children are gone on war service; one in Italy 4 years; one in Serbia; two on the Air Board, and the rest in W.A.A.C. So we take our refuge in work. Anyway there are others harder hit than we. It would have been infinitely harder to have seen them helpless, crippled or wounded prisoners in Germany, or as one of my old boys before me here, paralysed and in misery for the rest of his life; or as my brother's boy, a Commander. R.N. at 27, and now after 4 years strenuous destroyer work invalided out with consumption, brought on by hardship and living death. Truly we have all something to be thankful for, although it may be hard to see it. My youngest boy is at Marseilles and has been there for a year. He went out in the Eastern Tel: Co: service at 17 and expects to go to Suez soon. He will probably be swept into the French Army yet, but his present work is good work. My sympathies and kind remembrances to the wife

I have a vivid recollection of meeting her and the dear boy in Exeter Cathedral, little thinking that it wait be the last time I should see him.

Very sincerely your's

J. F. King.¹⁶⁰

.

22a London Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.
Sunday.

My dear Cliff: and Nellie,

We received Teenie's letter by this morning's post, and words fail us to give you any idea of the sympathy we extend to you in your irreparable loss. We know only too well what a dear good boy he was, and did, we are sure, grow even more so since the day we both knew and loved him, and we did so hope and trust that he would be spared from making the supreme sacrifice for all your sakes. As for him, like so many others alas, life was just opening out, and had he been spared, the world would have been the richer for one man. As it is, you can well say;-

"Duty impelled you, and you never faltered",

"There was no need for her to whisper twice".

"The end you saw not, no, nor would have altered",

"You took the cross and made the sacrifice".

We can only pray that you may be given strength and courage to bear this great sorrow, and think what comfort you may take from the knowledge that with dear Clifford all is well. As soon as you know

any details Hal and I will both be grateful to hear anything more.
Good-bye dear friends, you will understand how difficult words are.
We remain,

Your's as always,

Hal and Flo.¹⁶¹

.

Heedless and careless, still the world goes on.
And leaves us broken--Oh our sons--our sons.
Yet think on this, yea rather think on this.
He died as few men get the chance to die.
Fighting to save a world's morality.
He died the noblest death a man may die.
Fighting for God, and Right, and Liberty.
And such a death is Immortality.
Thank God for one who, counting not the cost.
Faced death and would not yield.
Thank God although your eyes with tears are dim
And sad your life and grey.
That how-so-ere the battle went for him
Twas victory that day.
With armour buckled on and flag unfurled.
The heights of death he trod.
Translated from the warfare of the world.
Into the peace of God.

.

22a London Road,
Tunbridge Wells
Kent.

22. 5. 18.

My dear Cliff: and Nellie,

I have put off and off sending to you in the hope that something might come to me that I could say of comfort but it is oh, so hard to find words, for the loss is not only your's and mine, but the world is the poorer. By the dear lads mere example he would have made others better, for honour and purity such as his must have borne fruit. He had the clear gaze that showed the clearness of his soul. His hand was always ready to give the help, even before it was asked, and his was the tongue to speak gently, and ear to listen readily. I fear it is not in me to look up with strong eye of faith such as I know you both possess, but I must try with you, to think of a hidden but wise purpose in the early close of a young life. The glory of his death is one consolation. He gave himself for his country and for us, but that can only lessen and not remove, the shadow. My sorrow for you will last as long as your sorrow will, but the duty of living and of working must not be forgotten, and that will help as nothing else, to take off the keenness. We have, as children of good parents, known grief at their being taken away from us, and lost for a time. So let us now "Fight the good fight" so that they and he may, in the mystery of the Great Beyond, know that "Our hearts are brave again and arms are strong". Good-bye now,

With best love to you both,

Hal.

25 Babington Road,
Streatham, S.W.16.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I am truly grieved at the contents of Fannie's letter this morning. I little thought on Sunday when thinking of him in Church that he had passed on to his rest. I am glad you have had him home as you have had from his own lips his life out there. I feel that words convey so little of what one really feels. But both Norman and I feel that we have lost a friend we thought so much of. Please accept the sympathy of one whose own heart is sad.

I remain,

Your's sincerely

Gertrude Knapp.

.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Fannie's letter came this morning and we were grieved to read the news it contained. I have been unable to get Clifford out of my mind all day. My thoughts would keep wandering back to the happy times we had together. It is so difficult to put into words what I want to say, but I do hope you will realise how much we feel for you all and that we know what a grief it must be to you.

Your's very sincerely,

Norman Knapp.

St Justinian Rectory.

Llanstinan.

Letterston.

Pembrokeshire.

6. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

It is with very sincere regret that I hear of your great sorrow in the death of your very dear son in France. Please accept my deepest sympathy. I am sorry for you all. I feel I know you because I have heard so much about you, and your kindness to my husband. I wish you could realise how much I appreciate it. I thank you for it. Dear Mrs Wallis, I trust you will be given Divine Strength to bear up in your great grief. The world is full of tears. I will close now with kindest and warmest regards to you and family, I remain,

Your's very sincerely,

S. G. Miles.¹⁶²

.

C.A. Hut,
Wearde Camp,
Saltash.
Friday.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

The sad news conveyed in your letter to the Captain this morning has indeed grieved me very much and my heart goes out to you in sympathy for all. Words are very empty things and cannot convey much comfort, but the Captain's presence will, I know, be a source of great comfort to you.

Your son has made the supreme sacrifice and I am sure your stricken hearts are beating with pride knowing that he has given his all for us and our beloved country.

My dearest love to you all,

Your's sincerely

Donald S. Miles.¹⁶³

.

Broadhempston

Totnes.

8. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Mrs Mole and myself were extremely sorry to see the announcement in the paper of the great loss you have sustained in the death of your eldest son. He has nobly laid down his life for the cause of righteousness and the protection of small nations. So many of the flower of the nation have died thus nobly and so many homes are missing their loved presence and company. To you both has come this great sorrow and I know how keenly you must feel the separation and the breaking-up of all your hopes in your eldest son. May God sustain and comfort you in this bereavement and enable you to realise that this separation will last but for a time. We send our sincere sympathy to you in this dark hour of trial. I have not seen you for a long time, but I have never forgotten our many meetings and the pleasant company. I have often thought of you, and now still more shall I think of you and the sad blow that has fallen upon you.

With kindest regards,

Chas: Mole¹⁶⁴

11 Fairfax Terrace,
Stoke,
Devonport.
6. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It is with very great sorrow that I see the sad news in the paper today of the loss of your beloved son. Will you both accept my heartfelt sympathy in your bereavement, and may God in his great love and mercy comfort you. "Greater love hath no man than this, that man lay down his life for his friends". This is what our splendid boys are doing every day. I shall treasure the photo of Clifford very much now especially. These are indeed sad days. I hope you are all keeping well or as well as can be expected in your great loss and trouble. Please give my kindest regards to all, and with kind love to you and the family,

I remain,

Your's in sympathy,

Susie Northcott.¹⁶⁵

.

Frome.

6. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

I was so shocked to hear from Mrs Eddis this morning that your dear boy has been killed. She tells me how brave you all are, but I know what a terrible blow it must be to you all. I feel so much for you. I know mere words are but little comfort, but you know, dear Mrs Wallis, mine are most true. Only this morning

I mentioned his name in my prayers, little thinking that he was already out of all perils. Now we can ask God that his soul may rest in peace. I know what a good boy and son he has always been, such a splendid example for his brothers. May the God of all comfort help all at this sad time. In June I hope to go down to Teignmouth, and shall, of course, hope to call and see you.

Always dear Mrs Wallis,

Sincerely your friend,

Helen Ogle.¹⁶⁶

.

Thornhill,

Friday.

Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I am deeply grieved to learn of the sad loss you have sustained and hasten to express my sincere sympathy. Poor, dear Clifford, always so bright and willing to help. The only comfort left you is the reflection of how splendidly you brought him up, and that he gave his life for others. With kindest remembrances to you all,

Believe me,

Your's very sincerely

Richard Parson.¹⁶⁷

.

The Cran-y-mor.
Peplow.
Market Drayton.
Salop.
6. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Glady's letter containing the sad news of dear Clifford's death awaited me on my reaching home this evening. I hasten to convey to you and to all whose hearts are pierced with the sword, the most profound sympathy of my wife and myself. We shall remember him and you all in our prayers at home and at the Altar. May God the Great Consoler comfort you in your poignant sorrow and enable you to realise that all is well with him who has climbed the steep ascent and made the supreme sacrifice for home and country. "Per ardua ad astra" Grant him Thine Eternal Rest O Lord, And may Perpetual Light shine upon him. Until the day break and the shadows flee away.

Sincerely your's,

In your great grief,

John Treharne Phillips.¹⁶⁸

.

Curley Lodge
Tiverton.
23. 5. 18.

Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Please forgive the delay in sending you a letter of sincere sympathy in the loss--the earthly loss-- of your

dear boy. In one sense you will always feel proud that you have had a share in that great sacrifice the whole Empire is making for what is best and noblest in the world, We are really fighting for all that Christianity has taught us to revere. As for your dear one-- he lives. No life begun can ever pause for deaths and what he loved here the best he is fulfilling there. Think of him then, as living unto God,--add a new meaning to the words "I believe in the Communion of Saints"--indeed it is no new meaning, but you can enter into it as never before. And may the Loving Father give you the comfort which He alone can give. He will draw you nearer to Himself in this sorrow--and thus will keep you very near your dear son--who, in spirit, is doubtless nearer to you, and always will be, than perhaps you dare even believe,

Believe me,

In true and heartfelt sympathy,

Your sincere friend,

J. H. Prince.¹⁶⁹

.

33 George Street

Plymouth.

4. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I cannot tell you how sorry I was to hear the sad news concerning Clifford from mother this morning. He was such a dear kind boy, so willing and seemed almost as though he were one of the family. I know it must have been an awful shock to you all.

It seems to be that all the best are being taken in this awful war. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy in your sad loss. Hoping that you will all bear up as well as you can,

I remain,

Your's with love,

M. Risdon.

.

Teign View Terrace

3. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

This is to convey to you all our deepest sympathy in the sad loss of your son. I am sure that such a sorrow is beyond expression. One so kind always and so clever, we shall all miss him so much. We feel quite sure too, that he is gone to the brighter land from whence he would not return, even if it were possible. God grant this to be your comfort, he has always lived in home obedience, and church fellowship through your bright example. May the God of all grace comfort you in this sad bereavement is the earnest prayer of your

Sincere friends,

Emily Eliz: and Mabel Rodway.¹⁷⁰

.

9 Den Crescent,

Teignmouth.

2. 5. 18.

My dear Gladys,

Kathleen¹⁷¹ has just been to tell me your sad tidings.

My dear, you know how sorry I am for you all in your great sorrow, but you must take comfort in knowing that dear Clifford has nobly done his duty, and that he is not lost to you, only gone on the long journey before you. May God comfort you all. With love to you all,

Your sincere friend,

Bertie Rowse.¹⁷²

.

The Gables,

Newent,

Gloucester.

10. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

Mother has told me this morning in her letter of your great loss, which believe me, came as a great shock, knowing Clifford so well. I am sure that one cannot put one's feelings better than did his comrades in the letter to you. He was, without the slightest doubt, one of nature's gentlemen, and as such, will be always held in loving remembrance both by myself and my husband. We have had many a talk about you and the family and it does indeed seem very hard to lose poor Clifford, but he gave his life for his country, and when the great shock has passed away a little you will, I am sure, feel that his life could not have been given in a nobler

causes. We should very greatly value a photo (if possible) and a copy of the card I sent back to Mrs Wotton¹⁷³ this evening. I have the childrens' (with Clifford) when very young. Please give my love to them all, and kind regards to Mr Wallis,

Believe me,

Your's Affectionately

Lottie Savage.¹⁷⁴

.

High Bullen
North Molton.
3. 5. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It was with deepest regret we received the very sad news of the death of poor Clifford. We all at High Bullen wish to express our deepest sympathy with you all in your terrible loss. No doubt it was a great shock to you all. I, from the bottom of my heart, feel truly sorry for you as he was one of the best. Although it comes a hard blow at the last, we must think that he is better off, and taken for a wise purpose out of the world's sufferings. This is a cruel war, but I trust God will give you extra strength to bear your trouble now in your time of need.

With deepest sympathy from us all,

Your's very affectionately,

Auntie May.

.

Whitelands
Iwerne Minster
Blandford.
Dorset.
12. 5. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

We were both so sorry to hear of your great loss. Please accept our sincerest sympathy for you all in the great trouble you are in. The news came as a great shock to us, for we never seem to realise that our friends or even our own people may be the next to go. I think the greatest consolation must be that Clifford, by giving up his life for his country and for us, has died a most glorious death. I cannot say all I should like to in a letter, but you know I am sure, that both Mr Spencer and myself sympathise with you all at this time. What a beautiful letter you had from Cpl Goldsmith? You will treasure it I know.

With fondest love to you,

Believe me,

Your's affectionately,

I. Spencer.¹⁷⁵

.

38 Haldon Road,
Exeter.
6. 5. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

We are more grieved than we can possibly express on seeing the notice in today's paper. I was so fond of that dear boy even as if he were my brother. And yet our grief can

only be a shadow of your's. Please be assured of our very deepest sympathy. Dear, good, noble little chap, I shall always honour and love his memory. He spoke so bravely and so cheerfully when we saw him last, not only of overcoming physical dangers, but spiritual dangers as well. I am certain that he was one of Christ's very faithful soldiers, and as such has undoubtedly won the great reward and has entered into the joy of his Lord, whom he served so faithfully. His organ lessons were always a pleasure, as he was so careful and in earnest. We pray that God may strengthen you all in your great sorrow. With kindest regards and deepest sympathy,

Your's,

Howard and Mary Treneer.

.

7 Northumberland Terrace,
West Hoe.
6. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I heard from my friend, Mrs Coysh¹⁷⁶ yesterday of your great sorrow in the death of your dear son Clifford. I am so very sorry for you. We feel so helpless in such times as these to help, but may He who can help you both, sustain you in this your great loss and trial. I wanted you to know how sorry I am.

With love to all,

Your old friend,

E. W. Tucker.¹⁷⁷

.

France.

13. 5. 18.

My dear Friends,

I am so deeply grieved to recieve the letter from Capt Browne, and later the memorial card you have so kindly sent telling me about Clifford. It is so hard to know what to write at such a time of sorrow, but I hasten to assure you of my sincere sympathy in this hour of trial. I am sure that God will comfort your hearts, and knowing this to be true, we have also the certain assurance that some day in a happier place, we shall meet our loved ones again, since death, instead of being the end of life, is the beginning of Life Eternal. I will not write more now, but, commend you to the loving sympathy of God. Again assuring you of my deepest sympathy and prayers,

Believe me,

Very sincerely your's,

H. C. Walters.¹⁷⁸

.

The Cleave,
Sticklepath,
Okehampton.

6. 5. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I feel I must write to you to say how grieved I am to hear the sad news that Clifford has been killed. I feel so upset, as it came as such a shock to me, as I knew Clifford as well and I always liked him so much, as he was always such a nice

kind boy, and ever ready to do good. I tender my deepest and heart-felt sympathy to you all in the loss of a dear and noble son. I know how heart-broken you all must be, but may this, the comfort of the Lord be your's in this great sorrow. This sad news brings it all back to us again of the loss of my dear brother Norman. He was always so fond of Clifford. Trusting you are all bearing up as well as you can, and looking forward to the time when we shell all meet in heaven. With my fondest love to you all,

I remain,

Your's sincerely,

Florence L. White.¹⁷⁹

.

15 Maple Road,

Exeter.

3. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

I cannot describe to you the awful shock it was to me to hear the dreadful news about poor, dear Clifford in Fannie's letter. Oh, how I sympathise with you all. Anyone that has been through it knows how hard and terrible it all is. We must try to think that he is better off, and look forward to the time when we shall all meet again, I went to business this morning knowing we should be very busy, but I felt so upset that I had to come home again. I think that mother is writing you herself, but we both sympathise with you all in your terrible loss. With best of love to you all,

Your sincere friend,

Nellie White.

15 Maple Road,

Exeter.

3. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

The sad news of dear Clifford's death was a great shock to us both this morning, and we feel so very sorry for you all in your great sorrow. He was such a dear, good boy and so devoted to you all that I know what a fearful blow it is for you all to bear. There is one great comfort, that he is much now than on those cruel battle-fields, where all our dearest seem to be giving their lives for their country. Nellie sends you her dearest love and sympathy. She is so very upset, and has asked me to write and say that if there is anything she can do for you in any way, you must not hesitate to let us know. Our neighbours also send you their kind sympathy in your great trouble. With very much love to you all, and looking forward to seeing you when you feel better,

I remain,

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Your sincere, friend,

M. E. Williams.¹⁸⁰

.

19th Field Ambulance,

B. E. F.

France.

14. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I am very very sorry indeed to learn the sad news conveyed in the card I received from you. It is hard to feel that one on whom your love was centred should have been cut off in the flower of his life, but we can say that it was not in vain. What can be nobler, as is expressed so beautifully on the card, than to die for one's friends, one's home, one's country, for the uplifting of righteousness, and all that is best in the lives of men the world over? What is our loss is his gain, and while none can take his place in your hearts' love here, God above will give the consolation and compensation for a loss so great and so sad. I feel so glad that I know him as one of England's heroes in these anxious days. Please accept my deepest sympathy with you all in your sad bereavement, With kindest regards,

I remain,

Your's very sincerely,

Pte. C. Apps.

.

98th Service Company
Royal Engineers.
Abbey Field
Colchester.

Dear Mr Wallis,

I am writing these few lines to sympathise with you in the loss of your son Clifford, and to thank you very much for the memorial card and photo which I received from my mother a few days ago. Believe me, sir, I am not a great hand at letter writing, but I can assure you that you have my deepest sympathy and respect. It is very hard to think of all the dear young lives being lost in this great and awful war, but there is not a more honourable death than dying for your country, I trust that Mrs Wallis and yourself and the family are keeping as well as may be expected under the circumstances.

I remain,

Your's most truly,

John Back. Sapper.¹⁸¹

.

11. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Just a line thanking you for the socks received, trusting that it will find you as well as can be expected under the circumstances. My wife told me you had had bad news of Clifford. I am very sorry to hear it and I feel it almost as if it were my own brother knowing him so well. My brother in Mesopotamia has been wounded in the arm, and one is in hospital, gassed here in France, I hope it is nothing very much. I am fairly well myself I am glad

to say. We are having nice weather here now, but not quite so hot today as it has been. Please remember me to Mr Wallis and family.

I remain,

Your's truly,

J. H. Blatchford.¹⁸²

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2nd Devons,
Pavilion Isolation Hospital
Shirley,
Hants.
30. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

It is with a deep regret that I am writing this letter under the circumstances, and I hardly feel up to the occasion somehow. I have only just had news from my brother in France telling of poor Clifford's death today. It is the first I have heard of it, and well--it is useless to express how grieved I feel. It is such a sudden shock. Although I felt very much out of place and insufficient to write this letter. I felt in duty bound to do so after all, as he was such a pal of mine. As a matter of fact we were like brothers and it has put me absolutely down in the dumps and I find it very hard to keep the tears back in front of my companions. Dear Clifford's life was one of a very high and noble character, which was recognised by every one he came in contact with, and above that, he was a Christian, which is a great consolation to all of us, as we know that our loss is his glorious gain. He has gone to be for ever with Christ who gave His life for the whole world's redemption. As we think of

your dear Clifford, we cannot feel but what his life was very similar as he has laid down his life for others, and also for what we all believe is a righteous cause. But it does grieve my heart more when I think of his dear ones at home. I am sure that you must feel it very keenly, but there is the great satisfaction of knowing that the dear boy is better off, which is a consoling comfort. He was in the same post as I was the last day I spent in the line, until the Germans, made the attack, and then we had to retire, and split up as fast as we possibly could and that is when I missed Clifford. He was detailed under a different officer than I was. Shortly after, the same day I got rather badly gassed and was obliged to give up. I was taken away as a stretcher case and three weeks ago I landed in England, and since that I have had diphtheria. I am still detained in an isolation Hospital, but I am progressing very favourably. I got up a week ago come Friday for the first time and I am feeling better every day. My Dad had been up to see me, also another friend near my home, that was before I could get out of bed. I had written two letters to Clifford and wondered why there was no reply. I was almost afraid to draw any conclusions. I thought that possibly the letters got missed because I had not heard from my own brother until today, and of course it was rather alarming as I got gassed on the 24th of April, which must have been about the time that poor Clifford was killed, so that I have been ignorant of all that has happened to the regiment until now. Walter my brother, asked me to write to you, but when I got gassed I lost all the addresses, photo wallet and everything else. I am not sure of your address. It is a pity because Clifford only gave it to me afresh a few days before we went

into the line, but I hope that you will receive it safely. Would you mind letting me know if you do? My brother and I send our most sincere sympathy to you all and pray to God that He will be your comfort and stay under such a dark cloud of sorrow.

Your sincere friend,

L/cpl E. J. Bridgeman.

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2. 6. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Thanks ever so much for your prompt reply.

I was almost doubtful as to whether my letter would reach you, as I was so uncertain of the address. I am glad you have been able to gain some information of dear Clifford's death. I thought that it would not be far from Villers-Brettoneux, as that was the village we were holding when the Germans made their attack. But dear Cliff: I can hardly fancy it yet somehow, and my heart still aches for his dear people at home, although I have never seen you, Cliff: has told me such a lot about his home, and I have seen your family group so many times, that I feel I know you all quite well. Before we went on leave we used to look at the group with the little girl holding Clifford's photo on her lap. I used to tell Clifford that I would much rather see him standing there like all the rest, so of course, when he came back, sure enough he was there, and he laughed when I told him it was a great improvement [photo]. I was not surprised at all to hear that you had to have so many cards printed, as I am quite sure that the dear boy's friends were quite numerous, and as Cpl Goldsmith said, he will be very much missed by all who knew him, not only on

H.Q. but also in the Coy which he came from. He was always a favourite with all the N.C.Os, and officers on account of his willingness in always trying to do, good to others, and in lending a helping hand. I am very grateful to you for your kind promise to send me another photo of Clifford, as I lost his photo with the rest, much to my regret, but I did not like to ask for another one as I thought it would be imposing, but I wanted one badly all the same. My sister will get it framed. They all think such a lot of Clifford at home. I expect that Mrs White at Exeter was very much grieved to hear of the sad news. She used to write such nice letters to him. I will do my best when on leave to come and see you. It is kind of you I am sure to ask me, but I feel a great interest in you all as though I had known you for years. It must have been a great upset for all when the kiddies came to the entertainment, to receive such awful news. It is the first news I have had of L/cpl Wroots¹⁸³ being wounded. It must have been an awful experience. It was kind of you to give me the address of Pte Gullick and L/cpl Wroots. I will try to write to them in a few days. I shall value the memorial card very much. It was so kind of you to send it. I also appreciate your kindness in offering to be such a friend, you are kindness alone. If there is any service I can do you whatsoever I shall only be too pleased to do it. Did I tell you that Walter my brother is sergeant now?

I am,

Your sincere friend,

E. J. Bridgeman.

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15th Div: Signal Coy,
Mesopotamia Exp: Force.

14. 8. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

I was very sorry to hear of your son's death in France, and will you please accept my deepest sympathy. I sincerely trust that by my writing I shall not be re-opening an old wound. We have had rather a bad summer out here, in this early part we were expecting a mild one, but it turned out exceptionally hot, and an epidemic came that put a good percentage of us out temporarily, but it was only serious in two cases, but enough as it was. It was bad while we had it, but thank goodness it has practically left us now, and we are looking forward now to our winter. I have given up all hope of leave to England. What it really amounted to was, that men who had any trouble, either business or family, had to submit their names, and of course, I was left in the cold. But I must not mind, I expect that I shall get home shortly when the war is over, which by the way, has taken a turn for the good, and should make the end much nearer. At the rate and cost both sides have been going this last six months it cannot possibly last much longer. Mother is rather disappointed at my not coming home this year. Well, I do not think I can touch on anything else at present, Hoping to hear from you again soon,

I remain,

Your's sincerely,

H. Brooks.¹⁸⁴

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16. 6. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Having received the sad news from you of poor Clifford, will you please accept my deepest sympathy. I am more than sorry. It is a great loss to all of us, and I feel certain it has put a dark cloud over all Bishop's Teignton. Everyone knew Clifford, and also knew what a splendid worker he was. Dear friends, I know the place well where Clifford is now resting. I have been through the same cemetery several times. I promise you I will visit there when we get back that way again. I will now close. Once more sending my sincere sympathy,

Your's very sincerely,

Stanley Bulley.¹⁸⁵

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14th Res: Battery R.F.A.
Larkhill,
Salisbury Plain.
9. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I cannot express to you how sorry I am to receive the news of the sudden end of your beloved son Clifford, as it was only quite recently that I heard that he was quite alright. We never know in times like these when we shall be called away across the Great Unknown, and in the midst of life we are in death. His name is associated with many pleasant memories of my boyhood days. It is so unfortunate that such young fellows should be cut off from this existence so early in their careers. He had everything that

life held for a boy in front of him. It will be some consolation to you that, when the great day of victory arrives, (and it will surely come) to know that his sacrifice has not been in vain. When we are free from the Prussian menace, and after the agony and blood-shed of the last four years it will be like Paradise regained. Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis, you are only parted from your dear son for a time, and you will surely meet again in that Great Beyond of which we know so little. I take this opportunity of tendering you all my most heart-felt sympathy in your irreparable lose. I know you will be brave in your sadness like all the mothers of our brave boys are. with these few lines I close.

Your's very sincerely,
Charlie Bulley.

.

Kantara.

27. 6. 18

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Your letter of May 8th reached me quite safely on Thursday last. It is with deep regret I learn of your sad bereavement. I am sure Clifford will be missed by all who knew him, as he was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in trouble even from our schooldays. Often I have thought of those old times and wondered how many of us will meet again after the war is over. At present I am at the base where Harry Vanstone¹⁸⁶ died, and before I leave I must visit the cemetery to try and find his grave. Thank-you for your kindness in forwarding me the card

Your's sincerely,
C. Channon.¹⁸⁷

24. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I have received the card you gave to father to send me of Clifford. Please accept my best thanks and deepest sympathy. It came as a great surprise to me to hear of Clifford coming to such a sad end. I am alright and well up to the present. Trusting this will find you as well as can be expected. With kindest regards,

Your's sincerely,

F. Channon.¹⁸⁸

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H. M. S. Skirmisher.

28. 5. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I hardly know how to express myself. Your loss is most terrible for you, I am certain, but if it will make it any easier for you to know how many share your grief, I am sure such must be the case. I only received your news on Saturday and I really could not have felt it keener were it my own kith and kin. It brought back my own dear brothers' death very vividly and I can quite realise your feelings. However, as you so truly put on your card, he gave his life for his friends. I am sure that you were thankful that he was able to come home a short while ago, and mother tells me that he played the organ on the Sunday night. I feel sure that his whole life was, as far as humanly possible, blameless. The letter from the Corpl: of his Coy: is a glowing tribute and I am glad that you had it printed. Possibly you have been expecting news from me,

but I have purposely refrained from writing since that awful slaughter commenced. God grant that it may soon cease for ever. Soon I hope to be home once more, when Mrs Cole¹⁸⁹ and myself will pay you a visit when we come to B.T. She joins me in consoling with you in your loss. Hoping you will bear up under this great load, I feel sure that, you all being noble Christians, you will do so.

I remain,

Your's very sincerely,

H. J. Cole.¹⁹⁰

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23 Staddon Terrace,
North Road,
Plymouth.
7. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I was deeply grieved on receipt of Mother's letter yesterday to learn of poor Clifford's death, and desire to send you all my deep sympathy in the great loss you have sustained, and pray that God will comfort you in your trouble. It must be a great source of comfort to you to know that Clifford lived such an upright, honest, Christian life and we may rest assured that he is still a soldier--but a soldier of the King of kings and that he is reaping the reward of those who love and serve Him. Mrs H.J.Cole also wishes me to convey her deepest sympathy,

Your's sincerely,

B. J. Cole.

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Red Cross Hospital,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Just received the letter from mother with the very sad news of Clifford. Words cannot express to you my feelings. Mrs Wallis, I share with you in all your sorrow. You all may gather a little comfort from this:- it was on that day that the British beat off the tremendous German attack, and it was the greatest victory of the war. And Mrs Wallis, you may rest assured from one that has been through it, that Clifford's body would be buried in a cemetery, a British one, close behind the lines. I have been looking forward to my visit to B.T., but I am afraid it will be a sad one this time, because it was at the School-house that I spent my happiest hours. In conclusion, if I can be of any help to you in anything concerning Clifford's effects I would be only too pleased to do so. This is poor consolation to you all, but it is from one who shares with you all in your sorrow.

I remain,

Your's very sincerely,

Philip Coombe.

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France.
17. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I received your letter of May 7th and was

indeed sorry to hear the bad news. Believe me, you all have my deepest sympathy in your great sorrow. Though I had never met Clifford I felt as if I knew him, and if he was like the rest of his people, it is a great loss to me that I did not have the pleasure of meeting him. I can quite believe that his comrades were sorry to lose him. I wish to thank you very much for your letter, as I know it must have been very hard to sit down and write the way you felt. Once again I wish to express my deepest sympathy to you all.

Your's sincerely,

Fred. Edmondson.¹⁹¹

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2/6 Squadron R. A. F.

B. E. F.

France.

7. 5. 18.

My dear Mum and Dad,

I cannot find words to express my feelings as I should wish, but what are my feelings compared with your's Mam dear. I hope I do not touch a tender chord when I address you thus, as you know I always looked upon you as a second mother. To say that I am sorry is absurd, as the word conveys nothing to what my thoughts are of you and Dad. How I wish I could be with you to comfort you a little. As it is I can only write to you and say that I am deeply grieved, as Kickie was my only friend. Please accept my deepest sympathy to all at home and may God give you strength to bear this time of stress and pain. Please excuse such a short note, but my mind is not quite clear so I know that you will excuse me. Mammie dear,

do me a big favour, end do a very best to keep from getting ill as that would be another terrible time for all of us, so I know that you will understand me if I use the word Cheerio. It seems very out of place, but I think under the circumstances that there is nothing else to do. Dear Mam, please forgive me if I have said anything to upset you. Such a thing is the last I would do. Once again allow me to share your great trouble by letting me know if there is the slightest little thing that I can do to help you. Please give my sympathy to all at home, and please accept my love as the only consolation I can impart on paper.

Ever your loving,

Arthur. (Finch)

.

46 Mess,

H. M. S. Valiant.

11. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It is with a sad heart I am writing these few lines to you, expressing my deepest sympathy in the sad loss of your dearly beloved son Clifford. I am quite sure that everyone at home has their deepest sympathy for you in the loss of such a nice young fellow as he was. I must say it is a very nice letter indeed which Cpl Goldsmith wrote to you, expressing his and the Battalion's deepest sympathy in the loss of such a good comrade as he was. He is gone, but never shall be forgotten by those who loved him.

I remain,

Your's sincerely,

G. A. Gill.¹⁹²

The Queen's Canadian Military Hosptl:

Beachborough Park,

Shorncliffe,

Kent.

4. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

A few lines to let you know how very sorry I was to hear the distressing news this of poor Clifford's death. I can quite realise what a terrible blow it is for you. I can hardly realise it myself yet. Poor Clifford was such a nice chum to me, in fact to everyone. I do not think you know how much I used to like Clifford and especially his coolness under fire. We very often used to pass a joke in the trenches or on the march, such as this:- "How would you like to be at Teignmouth now, Peter?" My reply was "There will come a time some day". I know Cpl Goldsmith and his men will miss Clifford very much indeed. He was a thorough good soldier and very clean, and he always did his duty well. You all have my deepest sympathy. I do not suppose he got my last letter as I only sent it to him on Wednesday last May 1st. I am going to write to Cpl Goldsmith and ask him for a few particulars, as perhaps he will tell me some thing he would not tell you, not caring to do so. Oh, what a wicked war this is truly speaking, Mrs Wallis? When I have been in an attack I have often thought to myself, "Is there One above to allow all this to go on?" It was very kind of Cpl Goldsmith to write to you as he did, and all that he wrote was perfectly true. Your son was a thorough good soldier. I know how much the Batt: Observers have missed him. Have you had the official news from the War Office

yet, Mrs Wallis? When you do will you please let me know and also when Clifford was 22 years of age. I always thought that he was 20. Well, a little about myself. I am still about the same. I do not expect to be out of here for another two months, but when I do come to see you, perhaps you will understand me better as I am not much of a letter writer myself. So, good-bye and God bless you all. I assure you of my great sympathy for you all,

I remain,

Your's very sincerely,

Ernest Gullick.

.

14. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I received a letter from you this morning telling as you did not quite understand the burial of dear Clifford by another unit. Well, it is quite clear to me that our Batt: got relieved by another Regiment in the front line, and that the latter brought in the dead and wounded back to the support lines, where our Batt: would be resting, and of course, they buried him there. You must understand that, when you read of a Batt: getting relieved from the front line, it does not mean that they go miles behind the lines. They only go in support to the front line Regt. I would be able to tell you more plainly when I come to see you. I had a letter from Cpl Goldsmith last night, but not in answer to the one I sent him last Sunday. He was very much cut up about poor Clifford, and he told me that the Batt: had been through some hard fighting, but fought like lions. They took back a lot of their lost ground with

the help of the Australians at Villers-Brettoneux. You will probably have to wait a long time before you hear from the War Office, as no doubt after this great push they wait have a lot to do. Cpl Goldsmith tells me that, out of the original Observation Sect: there are only two men left besides the Cpl himself. He tells me he is properly broken-hearted. One night when he thought of the old Sect: of me and Cliff: and the others it brought tears to his eyes. He says we were a merry lot, and I am sure that he would give anything to have us all back again. I will let you know as soon as I hear from him again. I hope these few lines will find you all quite well or as well as can be expected. God bless you all,

Believe me to be,

Your's very sincerely,

Ernest Gullick.

.

Salonica Force.

10. 7. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I received your letter dated 12/6/18 for which I must thank you. Your son's death was indeed a blow, and to tell the truth, I felt a kind of recoil when I read your letter for I could see by your letters before that date how much you loved him, and I can only assure you that you have my sincere sympathy. One lad out here who was in the 2nd Batt: happened to see the name and he told me he thought he knew the name, so I showed him the photo, and he said he knew him and also said your son was popular and that he was sorry he only knew him by name and by sight. I am sure that nothing

could make up for the loss of so good a lad. I hope that you are much better in health. I am feeling grand. We spend a lot of time bathing and in the mulberry orchards. We manage to get a little fishing, but the Bulgar has been a little too active lately, and unfortunately our favourite fishing pond received the best part of the shells, so we thought the place a little too unhealthy for a little while. The best fun was cooking the fish. I have actually knitted a (I was going to write a pair) sock. I was watching an artilleryman knitting and he asked me if I thought I could do it. After watching him a few minutes I told him I thought I could. He laughed at me and said I could not. That was like a red rag to a bull, because I do not like anyone laughing at me and telling me I could not do a thing when I only said I thought I could. I made some needles with some stiff wire and started. I managed to knit one sock but found that I could put both feet into it. I showed it to this chap and again he laughed, so then I informed him I did not say what size I was going to knit. It is a good joke around here, but really I had no intention of taking a rise out of him. I rather it was he trying to take a rise out of me. A case of biter bit I think. As I writing there is a big discussion on the question of leave. About twenty men all talking at the top of their voices. Most of them agree that three years out here is too long without leave. Of course I agree with them. I cannot help laughing to hear some of them. Some say (I do not know where they get it) that every one who came out here in '15 and '16 will have leave before Xmas. Rumour I expect, but I hope it will be right. It will be grand to have a glimpse of good old Blighty and one would be able to say that this is worth

fighting for. Being away so long is inclined to make one a little fed up. I rather think that some of my letters have gone astray so that in future I will number them. Kindest regards to all at the School House from,

Your's very sincerely,

F. W. Haywood.¹⁹³

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1.A. Block. C. Coy:
I. D. R. E.
Stanhope Lines.
Aldershot.
15. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Just a few lines to let you know how sorry I am to hear of the sad loss you have sustained in the death of your dear son Clifford. I am sure that it must have been a great blow to you and to Mr Wallis In losing such a dear one. He was liked and respected by all who knew him. It is one consolation for you to know that he was picked up and buried. With deepest sympathy,

Your's sincerely,

E. Kidston.¹⁹⁴

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The Vicarage Hospital,
Runcorn,
Cheshire.
4. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I had a letter from Lily this morning telling me of

the sad news you have had from the War Office. I am very sorry to hear of it. I have been following up the papers to see if our Div: has been in any heavy engagements. I am afraid that we have lost a lot during the big offensive. I ought to think myself lucky in getting out of it and I have something to be thankful for. I am glad to say that I am going on alright, and thought that I should have been marked out before now, but I am going to hang on as long as I can. I am in no hurry to get out there again. One comfort you have is that Clifford gave his life for his country. I will call in and see you all when I get home on leave,

Your's sincerely,

F. Leach.

.

Mess 1.

H. M. S. Romola,

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I have just heard that you have received the sad news about Clifford. I send you my deepest sympathy in your great loss, but I trust that he did not suffer pain. It must be a great blow to you all and I trust that you are bearing up to bear the burden. I cannot express to you how sorry I am for you all, but I trust that he passed away without having to go through any agony of pain. Let us hope that this war will soon be over. I am very well myself at present. The weather is rather cold up in these parts, but I expect it is warm down south. There is nothing else that I can mention now, so I will close my letter and hope that brighter days

are in store for all of us.

I remain,

Your's sincerely,

A. Ledger.¹⁹⁵

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France.

12. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It is with profound regret I write these few lines to you to express my most heartfelt sympathy for you in your sad bereavement. I am sure that it is a great blow for you all, as Clifford was such a nice young fellow and I greatly deplore your sad loss. It was only the day before my wife informed me of your loss that I received your kind letter saying how glad you were that he was safe. It is truly sad and terrible all the loss of such young lives. I pray that it will all end soon. May God help you to bear your terrible sorrow. Feeling too sad to say any more in this letter I will close. With kindest sympathy from

Your's very sincerely,

W. A. Martin.

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3rd Coldstream Guards,
2nd Northern Gen: Hospital.
Leeds.

6. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It is with deepest regret that I hear of

Clifford's death. Having only received the news yesterday I hasten to convey to you my deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement. I feel personally that my words are inadequate to express my own sorrow. I do hope that in this hour of great trial you may be given strength to bear your burden. It is so consoling to know that he has so nobly laid down his life in defence of others and----

"Greater love hath no man than this"

Believe me to be,

Sincerely your's

W. J. Perrett.

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France. 12.

12. 5. 18.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 5th. I was very sorry to hear about Clifford. It is a sad blow to you all and you have my deepest sympathy in this your time of trouble. I am very much obliged to you for sending me that card. Clifford was liked by all who knew him, and it seems a great pity that such a promising young life should be taken so early. Well Sir, we are having some very nice weather out this way now and I hope that you are having the same at home. As you say, it is terrible out this way, but I trust that it will soon be over and that we shall return again. So the children kept up May-Day the same as we used to do, so that although the war is on they do not forget the old ways. I have written to Ernest Apps¹⁹⁶, but I have had no reply yet. When you write to Mark Knight tell him I send him my best respects and hope that

he is going on alright. Well Sir, I have not very much to say this time as news is very scarce out this way, so I must close.

With my kindest regards to you all,

Your's sincerely,

H. W. Ridgeway.¹⁹⁷

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12. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

May I share my deepest sympathy with you all in your recent loss of a gallant son. It was the first mail I received from my wife on landing in France that I heard the sad news. I well know what a bitter blow it is to you and may the One Above be with you in such anxious times. Again extending my heartfelt sympathy with you all,

Your's very sincerely

F. Rollin.

.

Ward 4.

Great Northern Hospital

Holloway Road.

London N. 7.

14. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

It is with deep regret that I am writing such a letter to you as this, but as painful as it is for me to do so, I will tell you all I know up to the time I left your son. It was on the night of the 23rd of April that we went into the line on the

right of Villers-Bretonneux and. I was in charge of our section on that occasion. We got into our position quite safely and carried on with our usual routine. At 3.30.a.m. the following morning the enemy put up a heavy barrage lasting for four hours and then he drove us out of our positions with tanks. Cliff: and myself kept together in a shell hole and dug ourselves in. We had it fairly quiet for the rest of the day, and at dusk Cliff: and I sat down and had a bit to eat. About an hour after we had finished out little feed, some Australians came up and counter-attacked. It was during this attack that we were both hit. We must have been hit almost simultaneously, because when I turned to tell Cliff: I was hit, I saw that he was dead. That was the last I saw of your son. I was severely hit in the left arm and had to get back to a dressing station. I hope you will get Clifford's personal effects. I would have searched him myself if I had not been so hard hit at the time. Well Mrs Wallis, perhaps it is a little consolation for you to know that Clifford's death was instantaneous. The bullet entered the back of the head, and he died without making a sound. I know it must be a terrible blow for you, and it upset me a good deal, as I was very fond of your boy and he was also liked by his section and by H. Q. also. I would very much like a memorial card, but I have got one of his photos, given to me by himself. My arm is getting on favourably and I hope you will excuse the scribble as I can only use one arm at present. I am trying to find out if Cliff: was buried and if I get any definite information I will let you know at once. I will close now, tendering you the deepest sympathy,

Your's sincerely,

L/cpl. T.Wroots.

B. Coy: 7th Platoon,
1/6th Devons.
Mesopotamian Force.
10. 7. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I am very pleased to say that I have received your parcel all safe and sound containing the socks. It was dated 29/4/18. I cannot thank you too much for them (the socks) they are some of the most useful and most appreciated things in this hot country, and also very necessary, especially when we go on the march. In some places the ground is very rough, and with the severe heat our feet soon start to get tender and distressing, that is if the marching is for any great distance. In answer to your letter, I have not yet seen or heard of any Bishop's Teignton chaps around here. There are none in our Regiment. When I was in India I saw Jack Apps¹⁹⁸, but I have not seen anyone-else from home since in this country anywhere. I do not know his present whereabouts. I expect it has got quiet at home now. Now that the age limit has been raised I expect a few more will have to go. I also received your letter dated 18/5/18. and I was very sorry when it informed me of your great loss, and I know that you have my deepest regret and sympathy. Clifford was well known to me when I was at school. I am sure he has, and will be, missed in a very wide sphere. Many thanks for the Memorial Card, and again thanking you for the socks I think I will close. I am glad to say that I am in the best of health at present. Hoping that this will find you quite well and all at home in the best of health,

I remain,

Your's truly, Pte, J.W.Taylor.¹⁹⁹

16 Higher Brimley,
Teignmouth.
4. 5. 18.

Dear Gladys,

Words almost fail me to express our heartfelt and deepest sympathy at the cruel blow which has befallen you all. We trust that God will give you one and all, sufficient strength in this your great hour of trial and trouble. Mother and Winnie join me in our truest sympathy for you all.

With love,

Very sincerely your's

Ethel N. Barnes.²⁰⁰

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The Elms,
Darlington.
16. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I am so very sorry to hear that your son is among those who have fallen in this Great Crusade. He will be a great loss to his country, as well as to you all, to whom the blow must be terrible. But with your usual goodness I hear that you are bearing it most bravely. Please on no account think of replying to this letter, as I know what a busy life is your's, With deepest Sympathy to Mr Wallis and yourself and sons and daughters,

Believe me,

Very truly your's,

Edith Bissell.²⁰¹

18 Codrington Street,
Newtown,
Exeter.

7. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I have just heard this morning of your terribly sad loss in the death of your son, I felt that I must write you to express my deepest sympathy with you all, praying that God will comfort you in your great trial. It does seem hard and we cannot understand why it should be permitted for such bonny and clever boys to be so sacrificed. How thankful you must feel that neither of the other boys are old enough to have to serve under the colours. Hoping you are all as well as it is possible for you to be under the circumstances. I myself have passed through a great trial and still am and I am not able to do anything yet and cannot walk any better though I have been to Bath for the mineral water bath treatment. It is a year ago now since I was taken to the hospital from Keettos and what changes there have been since then. With deepest sympathy,

I remain,

Your's sincerely,

A. R. Bowden.²⁰²

.

Lindridge,
Bishop's Teignton.
14. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

We want to thank you very much for making

the School House so gay yesterday. All the flags made the village so pretty and gay. We have felt so much for you all in the loss of your son. Life can never be the same quite for any of us who know the grief of losing their dear ones. Thank you also so much for letting me see the paper. It is indeed a nice tribute to your son, and you will value it all the more as time goes on. I know it by experience. It was so nice of you to sing in the choir on Saturday. I wish I could thank each member individually, for all helped so much to make the service beautiful.

Your's sincerely,

Lilian Cable.²⁰³

.

Huntley,
Bishop's Teignton.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

That is as far as I think I can get, because I feel so overwhelmingly sorry for you both. We can only pray that great consolation may come to you in your deepest hours of grief. You must be very proud in having such a son, and I think I know you well enough to believe that you give him back to God in loving gratitude. But oh, it is all too sad for those who are left behind. My husband joins me in deepest sympathy.

Your's sincerely,

Mary Carpenter.²⁰⁴

.

Cross Cottage,
Bishop's Teignton.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

My daughter and I desire to express our deepest sympathy with you and your family in the heavy blow which has fallen on you in the death of your son Clifford. It makes the cross much harder to bear when we are prevented from standing round the loved one and hearing his last words, or following him to his last resting place. May you be sustained and strengthened by Him who alone can comfort, that you may be able to bear the blow with fortitude,

Your's with deep sympathy,

J. and R. Cawcutt.²⁰⁵

.

1 Clanage Street,
Bishop's Teignton.
2. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I feel it to be my bounden duty to write you a few lines expressing my very deepest sympathy with you in the almost overwhelming loss you have sustained by the Home-call of your dear son Clifford. I am afraid that human words can only on a very limited measure express anything which can comfort or help one in such a heart crisis as this, but I assure of my remembrance of you and all the other members of the family, before the Throne of Grace, so that, by the virtue of the Holy Spirit the Comforter, you may be able to bear this heavy cross, so suddenly laid upon you.

I can confidently say that if ever a human life was given unselfishly for the good of the world, it certainly was so in the case of your dear and brave son. Clifford was so genuinely good and kind in every way, and so clever, and yet so modest and humble in all his actions. I rejoice to think of his noble and virtuous life, and his beautiful example of Christian manhood, which was so like the spirit and conduct of our Saviour. This was further exemplified when he gladly embraced the strenuous life of a soldier, so that we at home might dwell in safety. Certain I am that his sudden Home-call meant for him sudden Glory; the joy of fellowship with the Redeemer of Heaven. Please accept my poor and feeble testimony to the worth of your dear son, and also my deepest sympathy with you all in this your hour of trial,

Your's humbly,

In the Master's service,

W. D. Cleland.²⁰⁶

.

Cockhaven

Bishop's Teignton.

3. 5. 18.

Mrs Cope²⁰⁷ and Mrs Swettenham²⁰⁸ send Mr and Mrs Wallis and their family most heart-felt sympathy in the great loss and sorrow they have been called upon to bear in that their son has given his life for his King and his country. This will always be a source of pride and a slight comfort to them and us.

.

Radway,
Bishop's Teignton.
2. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

We have heard with sorrow the sad news you have received and we join in deepest sympathy with you in your great loss. We are told to weep with them that weep. You are permitted to pass through a pathway where human sympathy and comfort fails, and we trust you may prove in your great trial the sustaining Grace of God. Again offering you and every member of your family our deepest sympathy,

We remain,

Your's respectfully

S. and N. T. Counter.²⁰⁹

.

Clanage.
Bishop's Teignton,
2. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Although I am not one of the older inhabitants of Bishop's Teignton, I am hoping that you will allow me to express my deepest sympathy for you and Mr Wallis and all your family in your sorrow. Your precious son has made the Great Sacrifice and "Greater love hath no man than this". He is safe on the other side, and out of this sad world. It is those who are left that one grieves for, May God help and strengthen you.

Your's very truly,

F. A. Courtney.²¹⁰

R. N. Barracks,
Shotley,
Harwich.
4. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

A letter just arrived from home tells me that you have lost Clifford. Please let me write a line to say how sorry I am and how I feel for you all. I know, though, that in the middle of all your grief there will come a feeling of rightful pride in his life here, and in his love for you all, and lastly in the manner of his death. May God Almighty give you the goodly comfort and help that He alone can supply. I shall remember you all and him at the Altar tomorrow.

Your's very sincerely,

John Dauglish.²¹¹

. M

Pook's Hill,
Bishop's Teignton.
8. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Mr Dauglish and I are so very very sorry to hear of the great trouble that has befallen you and your family. Your hearts are sore and grieving, but believe me, we are grieving with and for you. One always thought that Clifford had a great career before him, but he would have only attained the career we thought of after years of weary work, and now suddenly, he has attained the great Attainment, dear boy. He would not have you too

sad I know. He has died a noble death, and none of you who love him so well will grudge him his early honour and glory. There are many of you ,you must help one another. Of course you are not to think of answering this. Assuring you once more of our deep sympathy with you all,

I am,

Your's sincerely,

R. C. Dauglish.²¹²

.

Ash Hill,
Bishop's Teignton.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Mrs Dimbleby²¹³ and myself were deeply grieved to hear of the death of your son. We sympathise very much with you both. You have lost a good son, alas, he is, I am afraid, only one of many who have made the great Sacrifice now this lest few weeks. With our kind regards,

Believe me to remain,

Your's sincerely,

R. Dimbleby.²¹⁴

.

Southcombe House,

Chagford.

23. 5. 18.

Dear Christine,

Your little note and the two photographs for which I thank you all very much have reached me here. I am very grieved to hear of your sad loss. I am sorry for you all, but most perhaps for your dear mother, whose strong and loving nature will, for ever, feel this very sad blow. Daily one hears of friends, and often very dear ones, who have joined the army, the Noble Army of Martyrs, laying down their--to us brilliant and hopeful--lives, and laying them down for us. I wish people generally would realise this fact more, that the dear boys and men die that we may live in safety and security. I am sure you will all continue to help your dear parents to bear this terrible loss. As the years pass you girls will have new and wide interests and the gap in your lives will be filled naturally, but with your dear parents it is quite different, and you cannot bestow too much love and affection on them always. I will not sermonise on platitudes any more, I know that you are all very good daughters and I hope to see you again next winter, as I may be in Teignmouth during that dreary season. My husband is still away, and with no signs of leave. He is well I am thankful to say, or was on the 5th of May. I am miles away from anywhere up here, in very beautiful country and with nice people. I may be here another month.

Your's affectionately,

Christine Eldridge.²¹⁵

.

Burleigh.
Bishop's Teignton.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr Wallis,

Having heard of your sad bereavement in the loss of your son at the front, I feel constrained to write and let you know that, although our acquaintance may be slight and of a short time, Mrs Evans²¹⁶ and I deeply deplore your loss and sympathise with you and your's at this time.

Your's sincerely,

Philip James Evans.²¹⁷

.

Rockwood,
Totnes Road,
Newton Abbott.
7. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I have just heard from Mrs Finch the very sad news of your sorrow. What can I say to you my dears? I know you have the consolation of faith in our Loving Father. The lesson I have learnt through all my trouble and losses is that the other Country is so near now, and those that have gone on before are happier and very very near us every day. I would not have one of them back now. Dear Clifford has made the supreme Sacrifice. Has he not? I for one, envy those dear boys their going Home. They are so young and I know parents must feel it very much indeed, especially the first break in a home. You all have my very warmest sympathy, thoughts and prayers. It seems such an intrusion to speak at all in such a sorrow as

your's , but you have pride too, in his going Home, and your faith which I know will help you. Please accept all I cannot put into words as said, and my sincere love and sympathy,

Your's very affectionately,

Ada Finch.²¹⁸

.

1 Lockyer Terrace,
Saltash.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis and All,

I hardly know what to say to you for words are such poor things. But you know that my heart is full of sympathy and sorrow for you in this terrible time of affliction. I know how you all loved him, dear lad, and by that I can gauge the measure of your grief. But you have the sure knowledge and comfort that is denied many sorrowing parents, and that is that you know he was fit to go, and also that he did not suffer. As for him, he has joined the Army of Heroes on the other side, where there is no more fighting and the Great Peace is for ever. Therefore do not grieve unduly, but rather be proud and glad for him. I am sure that Arthur will be very much upset, dear boys, how fond they were of each other? I cannot say any more, but I pray for you, that you may be given strength to bear this blow. With much loving sympathy,

Your's sincerely,

H. J. Finch.

.

Lower Rixdale,
Chudleigh.
4. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I cannot tell you how sorry I am to hear of your sorrow. It seems such a little while since Clifford used to be coming up with you in Mr Ogle's²¹⁹ days. We all know that he has fallen in a noble cause, but that does not make your hearts ache less and I know you will all feel it terribly. Please accept our sincerest sympathy, and may you all have the needed strength given you. The world is full of sorrowing ones I am afraid, and will be till this awful war is over. With every kind thought for each one,

Believe me,

Your's very sincerely and sympathetically,

L. Foale.²²⁰

.

Claverham,
Bishop's Teignton.
8. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Although I have never had the pleasure of speaking to you, I feel I must write at this time and express how deeply sorry we are for you all in the very sad bereavement you have just sustained. The death of your dear son, such a bright promising, young man, must be a terrible trial to you and to Mr Wallis. The loneliness of not being with him at the last must make your grief more poignant. Our deepest sympathy is with you all and heartfelt prayers for your noble soldier who has given his life for us, whose

cross is o'er, and whose crown is won.

With kindest regards,

Your's very sincerely,

Mary S. Fraine.²²¹

.

87 Fore Street,

Saltash.

8. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Please pardon me for writing, but may I just offer you my true sympathy in your very sad loss of your son, as I know how deeply you must feel it, but no doubt it is his gain and one can but feel that he is at rest. I often look at the wounded men and think how sad it is to see them afflicted, sometimes for life, and what a time it must be for their dear ones. Trusting that with God's help you will be able to bear up bravely. I feel sure that Clifford will be there waiting to receive you when it is God's will. My kindest regards to Miss Wallis, and to all of you,

I remain,

Your's faithfully,

M. Freeman.²²²

.

Tapley.

2. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Without intruding, I must send you a line of sympathy in your grievous sorrow and loss, that I have just

heard has come into your lives. You are such a united family, that I think I know what the grief is to you all, and I am deeply grieved for you all. This awful sacrifice is truly appalling. Once again assuring you of my heartfelt sympathy,

Your's very truly,

H. M. Galabin.²²³

.

Bishop's Teignton.

4. 5. 18.

Dear Christine,

I feel I must just write you a few words to say how very much I feel for all of you in your sad sorrow of losing your brother. The one ray of comfort is that you have seen him so lately and that he has died for his country, and joined the noble band who have gone on before. I can say nothing but I trust that God in His mercy will comfort all your poor sore hearts. With much sympathy,

Believe me ,

Your's sincerely

Grace Gardiner.²²⁴

.

The Cottage,

Bishop's Teignton.

10. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Please accept my deepest sympathy in your sad loss, I do grieve for you and feel for you all most deeply. Still, there is great consolation in knowing that he gave his life for his country and no one could do a nobler deed. It is truly a

following of the Great Master. With my kindest wishes and sympathy,

Your's sincerely,

E. A. Gardiner.²²⁵

.

95 Rosebery Road,

Exmouth.

14. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I am writing to say how sorry I was to hear the news of poor Clifford's death. It came as a great shock to me, and indeed to all those who knew him at the works. The Department and I send our most sincere sympathy in this your great trial. We all feel that we have lost a true friend from our midst. But it is some consolation to know that he died as a gentleman and a soldier of his God and King. I should like to come and see you as I often promised Clifford I would. Once more may I offer my deepest sympathy in your great bereavement.

I am,

Your's very sincerely,

Leonard Glanfield.²²⁶

.

Warleigh,

Burraton,

Saltash.

8. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Just a few lines to express to you and all your

family my deep and sincere sympathy with you in your great trouble and loss. To you it is an irreparable one, and I trust that you will be given strength to bear the trial as resignedly as possible. Mr Thomas²²⁷ also adds his share of sympathy with mine. If there is any satisfaction in the thought, you have the comfort of knowing that he has made the Supreme Sacrifice and is now numbered among the many heroes this war has claimed. God grant you that you may have His grace to bear bravely this heavy trial, and may these few lines convey to you the depths of my sympathy as fully as if I wrote at greater length.

With Kindest regards,

Your's sincerely,

G. Hambly.²²⁸

.

Bovey Tracey.

25. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

We have only just heard the news of your terrible trouble in the loss of your dear boy, and feel we must send just a few lines to express our deepest sympathy, although we did not have the pleasure of knowing him. It is only those who have gone through the bitter experience of losing dear ones that understand what it means, but you must bear up and try to think that some day we shall all be together again without the shadow of the inevitable parting. He was a grand lad, and showed his pluck, and he has now died a hero's death. That is perhaps a little consolation although that does not make the loss of him any the easier to bear.

Believe me Mrs Siddons²²⁹ and I are truly grieved for you, and it was a great shock to us when we heard the news yesterday. Please remember us to your daughter. We know how fond she was of her brother. With kindest regards and heartfelt sympathy from us both, Believe me to remain,

Your's very sincerely,

Eva Harcourt.²³⁰

.

Elmside.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It deeply grieved me to hear the sad news of your sudden bereavement and I have earnestly prayed that God would succour and help you to bear it. Try and think of your dear boy as not dead, but called to Higher Service for the King of kings.

Your's in sympathy and sincerity,

L. A. Harris.²³¹

.

Cross House,
Bishop's Teignton.
2. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

The sad news of your great bereavement in the loss of your dear son Clifford has just been told me. I do not like to intrude on the grief of dear Mr Wallis and yourself, but I feel that I must offer my tribute of real sympathy. Your son has given his brave young life for his country, and he will receive his reward from the Saviour whom he loved. None who knew Clifford would fail

to appreciate his quiet, stedfast nature. He has won his crown early, but the freshness is untarnished by the war of life. I pray that God will soften this sorrow to you and to Mr Wallis, and the memory of your gallant boy will be softened in that he did his duty and gave his sacrifice unflinchingly. I had a very great regard and admiration for Clifford, and I am so glad that I saw him before he left his home. With my kindest remembrances to Dear Mr Wallis and yourself.

Believe me,

With true sympathy,

Louisa Mohun Harris.²³²

.

Orchard Terrace,
Bishop's Teignton.
4. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I really do not know what I can say which will be of any comfort to you in this your very great grief. Time alone will bring you consolation, but the very fact of the knowledge that the dear boy died for his King and country, and to help to preserve those whom he loved from the fate that overtook Belgium and other countries at the hands of so inhuman an enemy must be of some comfort to you, and very great satisfaction to others as well, I am truly sorry for you in this your great trial, but I always feel. and I think that you are confident also that, whether our loved ones are taken away from us in youth or in old age, it is the right time for it is God's time, and therefore the best time, for He doeth all

things well. What He does we know not now, but we shall know hereafter, and how frequently one finds that said hereafter in this life. God permits all this evil to come upon us, and I am quite sure that He will bring great good out of it, if only we have patience and faith to see His guiding Hand in it all and await His will. I too have lost dear ones in the war, and as I write, I dare not hope that others may be spared. One dear nephew we have not heard of since last June, and my husband lives a life of constant anxiety among the wounded in France. He has had very narrow escapes. As each mail comes in I look for his letters and yet in very dread to see the postman in case some other handwriting is on the envelope. Please accept my deep sympathy, and I trust I have not wearied you with my remarks.

Your's sincerely,

Kate Hawson.²³³

.

Windmill Farm,

Totnes.

5. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

We are so sorry to hear of the sad news of your dear boy. Kindly accept our deep sympathy in your sad bereavement. It seems an awful thing that we have to make such a great sacrifice at all of all our young blood, who, just in the beauty of their days are hastened into eternity. It seems that hardly a week passes when we do not hear of some Totnes boys who have passed away. We saw Frank²³⁴ at Ivybridge on Thursday. He is improving wonderfully so his colonel tells him. There are seven in

his ward exactly like babies learning to walk, going round the walls and tables. Just fancy men doing this. Frank was able to walk out around the grounds with just staying himself on my shoulder.

With all loving sympathy,

Your's sincerely,

Mr and Mrs E. J. Hill.²³⁵

.

School House,

Luton.

4. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I saw in the Echo today the dreadful sorrow that has befallen you and I cannot refrain from sending you my most heartfelt sympathy. I know that time only can bring any consolation, but the remembrance that your boy is yet another young hero who has given his life for his country must always be a source of sorrowful pride, and his memory will always be green among those who knew him and for whom he made the Supreme Sacrifice. Words are too scanty and poor to tell you how deeply I feel for you, more especially as my only son is in the trenches and I may be called upon any moment to endure the sorrow that is now your portion. Needless to say the prayers and sympathy of your many friends are your's and I with many others earnestly hope that consolation will eventually come to you whilst the remembrance of your dear son's heroism will always remain among those who knew him,

Your's very sincerely

Monica Hollis.²³⁶

The Terrace,
Bishop's Teignton.
4. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Please accept the deepest sympathy of Mr Hooke²³⁷
and myself in the great loss you have sustained. We do indeed feel
for you and for all the family. Again saying how sorry we all are.

I remain,

Your's sincerely,

H. F. Hooke.²³⁸

. M

6 Fore Street,
Bishop's Teignton.
4. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Thank you so much for the nice remembrance
of your dear son Clifford. We were greatly upset when we heard the
news and deeply feel for you in your sad loss. Trusting that God
will give you strength to bear your sorrow,

Believe me,

Your's in deepest sympathy,

A. Hutchings.²³⁹

.

7 Glene Street,
Chelsea.
22. 6. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

I was so grieved at hearing your sad News. I

could not make up my mind to write to you before. I was too upset when I saw Clifford's photograph in the paper exactly like the one I have. I am so very very sorry. It seems so sad to think every day how many young lives are lost. Clifford was one of the nicest boys, and the nicest ones seem to go. This war is terrible. I wonder if it will ever end. You have one small consolation in knowing that Clifford died by a bullet wound. So many mothers never hear the end. God has been good to us so far, and I only hope that our boys may be spared, though they are always in danger and we hear news from them one month old, so one never knows what is happening. I have eight days leave so I expect to be in Devon shortly. With love to you all, and please accept my sympathy for you in your great loss,

Very sincerely your's

Cissie Johnson.²⁴⁰

.

20 Rhiw Road,
Colwyn Bay,
N. Wales.
16. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Your card has just come to hand and I cannot express how sorry I feel for you and Mr Wallis in your great sorrow. One great comfort that you have is, that Clifford suffered no pain, and that he died nobly in doing his duty for his King and country. We all feel very much for you all. We do not know at all what the next post will bring to us, for it is such a terrible, distressing time on all who have their dear ones taking part in this terrible war.

Try and bear up for your dear children's sakes, although it is hard.

Again expressing our deepest sympathy,

Your sincere friend,

May Jones.²⁴¹

.

Weston,
Hermosa Raod,
Teignmouth.
10. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

The first thing that I read on opening the paper was the news that Clifford had been killed in this terrible war. I felt that I simply must write and assure you of our heartfelt sympathy, for Mr Kennaway²⁴² joins with me in this, having many times heard me speak of the talented young organist who used to cheer Miss Wright²⁴³ and me when we were at Luton. I know how devoted as a family you all are, and Clifford was such an excellent son that this will be a bitter trial to you all. We can only remember you in our prayers which indeed we will do, that God may comfort you. He gave his life for us and for his country. Assuring you of our loving sympathy and with kind regards to you all,

Your's very sincerely

Bertha E. Kennaway.²⁴⁴

.

Murley Grange.

3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Please accept the most sincere sympathy of myself and my family in what we are sure is a great sorrow. It has come to all of us in the village as a great blow. It will be a most comforting reflection to you that Clifford has done his full duty, and to our sorrow has been called upon to make the Complete Sacrifice and we trust has won his crown. As to yourselves and ourselves. What can we do but bow humbly before our All-loving Father, and say after the example of our Divine Master "If this cup may not pass from me except I drink it, Thy will be done?"

With kindest regards and sympathy,

Your's sincerely

John R. Kelly.²⁴⁵

.

Murley Grange.

6. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I am so truly grieved to hear of the great sorrow that you and your husband have just had. It must have been a terrible blow. I can sympathise as I know what it is. We all have to give up our dearest in this terrible war, and do not know what each day may bring. We can only hope that those remaining to us will be spared. My husband²⁴⁶ and I send our most heartfelt condolence. I hope that you and Mr Wallis are keeping fairly well.

Your's very sincerely

Emma E. Koebel.²⁴⁷

Norwyn,
48 Torquay Road.
13. 5. 18.

My dear Miss Wallis,

We were so very grieved to read in the local paper of the death of your brother, and my husband and I wish to express our deepest sympathy with you all in this great trial. I can quite realise what a terrible blow it is and how you will miss him, for only two months ago our dear Reg:²⁴⁸ was taken from us, and we miss him most terribly every day. We hoped that he would be spared to us, and his lung was quite healed, but just before Xmas he took a chill and was too weak in his constitution to battle against it. It is so hard to feel that all is for the best, but we do try to think of what he has gained, and you will feel the same I know dear, and also will find strength to bear this heavy trial. If you and your sister come in to Newton Abbott at any time I should so like to see you. So please do come and see us. We have moved from Church Road to share the house with mother, as she would have been so lonely after my brother's death. They were so much to each other, especially since I left home. With renewed sympathies from us both,

Your's very sincerely,

Daisy Lias.²⁴⁹

.

4 Coastguard Station.

Teignmouth.

6. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I was so grieved to hear of your poor Clifford's death and I hope that you will accept my sincere sympathy in your great loss. Gladys was always talking of him, so he is no stranger to us. There is a little comfort in knowing how he died, so many disappear and their relatives never know how they met their end. Have you had any news officially yet? We did not hear for a long time that our brother was missing, and then no news of how he went. This war is cruel, and I am getting weary of it, as everyone seems to be losing their dear ones. I must close now, hoping that you are all well, Kind regards to Mr Wallis and yourself,

Your's sincerely,

K. Luker.²⁵⁰

.

Woodbine Cottage.

2. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

I cannot express to you how grieved I am at the sad news that has just reached you, that you have lost the dear son of whom you are so justly proud. I trust that he is now with his Saviour, and far beyond the reach of any more suffering or sorrow, and i pray God to strengthen you to bear the separation which is but for a time and to help you all to look forward to the blessed reunion after which. there will be no more partings, and we shall be for ever

with the Lord. I think this time is drawing very near for us all. May we all be ready to answer the call:- "Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him" God help and comfort you all.

Your's sincerely,

Fanny Mackworth.²⁵¹

.

Blagdon House,
Ashwater.
6. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

May I sympathise with you in the trouble which has befallen you all? Words fail to express what I should like to say, but when I think of dear Clifford who was always so kind to Lillian²⁵² and me, who laboured unceasingly for everyone, and who is the same age as I am, it is terrible. We were often together when we were smaller. He has made the Supreme Sacrifice, and has died a hero's death. Now he has entered within the veil, into the brighter and happier beyond, where he will meet his little brother²⁵³. Though you must be proud of him, the loss must indeed be great grief to you all. The Ashwater people remember him when he helped to put the swell into the Church organ, and they wish to convey to you their deepest sympathy. I came here from Chagford to spend a week on Sat: last, and purpose all being well to come to Bishop's Teignton for a few days soon, so shall hope to see you then. May God in His great love and unerring wisdom help you to bear this heavy cross, though He is leading you in troublesome and sorrowful paths, and may He give you that inward peace and consolation which only our Heavenly

Father can bestow to his sorrowing and suffering children. I will pray earnestly for you all, again assuring you of my deepest sympathy and with love to you all,

Your's lovingly

Hilda Maddicott.²⁵⁴

.

8 Grosvenor Terrace,
Teignmouth.
8. 5. 18.

Dear Mr Wallis,

I was so sorry to hear of your dear son's death. Please accept my deepest sympathy. He has been a hero. I am sure you and your's must be very upset. I will do as you say, and come out between the 13th and 16th. Again expressing my deepest sympathy,

Your's faithfully,

T. Marshall.²⁵⁵

.

The Moors,
Bishop's Teignton.
5. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I write a few lines to say how sincerely my husband and I sympathise with you all in the sad loss which you have suffered. A blow of this kind is always severe, but in the case of a large affectionate family such as your's it is still worse, and your boy had such a bright future before him. The only consolation I can offer is that he has done his duty and has done what he could to conquer

the hideous gospel of force against which we are fighting.

Believe me,

Your's sincerely,

M. F. Maude.²⁵⁶

.

Cockhaven.

3. 5. 13.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It was with the deepest regret that we heard the sad news last evening of the fate that has befallen your boy in France. We are indeed sorry for you. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy. This is indeed a cruel war, but I think that you have need to be proud of him who has fallen for his country. May the Great God, Who doeth all things well, comfort and sustain you all in your sorrow.

Your's sincerely,

E. May.²⁵⁷

.

Teign Lawn.

Bishop's Teignton.

3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I feel i must write a line, I am sorry to hear of your sad loss. Please accept my deepest sympathy.

Believe me,

Your's very sincerely,

Thirza Mead.²⁵⁸

Westhaven,
Vicarage Road.
Torquay.
5. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I was grieved to hear of your sad loss. I should have written before, but I did not know until I received a letter from my sister this morning. Please accept my warmest sympathy.

Your's truly,

G. M. Mead.²⁵⁹

.

The Terrace,
Bishop's Teignton.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Please accept my deepest sympathy in the loss you have sustained by the death of your son. Having so recently gone through such a great sorrow myself I do indeed feel truly sorry for you all.

I remain,

Your's truly,

K. Parish.²⁶⁰

.

Bukworthy,
Launceston.
7. 5. 18.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

Just a few lines to try and express my deepest sympathy for you all in this your great loss. It came as a great blow to me this morning in today's paper. I did not know that dear Clifford had gone to France. Dear Mrs Wallis, I cannot say all I feel for you He was such a dear sweet boy, one of the best. May God help you dear, to think of him as gone on before, not gone for ever. He died the noblest death that a man may die. Fighting for God, Right, and Liberty. And such a death is Immortality. Will you please give my best love to all the family. I should love to come and see you all, but it cannot be for time. My very best love to you dear, one of England's bravest mothers.

Your loving,

Ivy Pascoe.²⁶¹

.

20 Hillman's Road,
Newton Abbot.
6. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

The sad news came to me this afternoon at Luton. I am deeply touched at the loss you have sustained, of a link in your family such as dear Clifford was. I extend to you my heart-felt sympathy in your sad bereavement. May God graciously give you

one and all, strength to bear the trial.

Your's very sincerely

W. Passmore.²⁶²

.

30 Gloucester Road.

Newton Abbot.

3. 6. 18.

Dear Mr Wallis,

At last I am writing to say how sorry I was to hear the sad news conveyed in your note received before Whitsun. It must indeed have been a sad blow to you all and I would like to assure you of my sympathy. It is difficult to know what to offer as consolation, but when this terrible war ends, and brighter days dawn, then perhaps we shall be able to see that the sacrifice has not been in vain and we may be quite sure that but for the self-sacrifice, England would not be the same beautiful land as she is.

With Kind regards,

Your's sincerely,

E. M. Peterson.²⁶³

.

Ascension Day 1918.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

Mr Townsend²⁶⁴ and I thank you for the beautiful little token of your dear son. He was beloved by his comrades near and far. We think of him today with our dearest saints, on the Feast of the Ascension, there waiting until we go to meet him. May God give you all renewed strength to bear your grief. He will also

share with you the weight of it. With many thanks and united sympathy.

Your's sincerely,

M. Phelps.²⁶⁵

.

Myrtle Cottage.
Bishop's Teignton.
7. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

Thank you very much for the memorial of dear Clifford which we are very glad to have. It is so nice to know that he was so much appreciated by his comrades, as indeed, he could not fail to be. There is a little comfort in knowing that he did not suffer, as some of our poor fellows have to do, but that does not make it any the less hard to lose him. I was thinking on Sunday that it was just three months ago that he played for us in school. Again thanking you, and with sincere sympathy from us all,

Your's sincerely,

Margaret Phillips.²⁶⁶

.

2 The Cedars,
Harold Street,
Hereford.
5. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I have just received a letter from home telling me the sad news that Clifford has given his life for his country in

the recent great battle in France. It was quite a shock to me when I read my sister's letter, because, having come through the severe fighting of Easter Sunday safely, I had hoped he would continue to do so. I am sure that he will be very much missed in Bishop's Teignton, and his loss will be felt in the Church which he helped so much for many years past. I do not find it easy to say in writing how sorry I am for you all, but I hope these few line will convey to all at Bishop's Teignton School-House my deepest sympathy.

Your's very sincerely,

Alice Phillips.²⁶⁷

.

Rockstone.
Abbot's Kerswell.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

We were very grieved to hear today that poor Clifford has been killed. We know so well what a loss you have now sustained, and what it will mean to you all. Words fail me to express our feelings, but please accept our heart-felt sympathy.

Your's very sincerely,

May Phillips.²⁶⁸

.

Long Marston,
Wilfrid Road,
Boscombe.
27. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I have just heard from Bessie²⁶⁹, (My old Nurse) of your

sad loss, and I write to offer you all my mother's and my truest sympathy in your overwhelming sorrow. The war is too awful and takes such a toll of our best and bravest. Your only comfort is to feel that your dear boy is free from all pain and distress. Your good training had prepared him for the great future of progress in a far better world. Mother and I have lived here for four years now. My dear father died on June 18th 1914. He was hardly ill three days, and was to have had a fearful operation at 3.p.m, on June 18th, but God was good and took him at 1.45. He just fainted away in our arms as he was walking across our rooms, and so was spared all suffering. My mother is fairly well, but needs a good deal of care and attention. Bessie write and tells me what dear girls Fannie and Teenie are. Gladys I have seen. Forgive my writing dear Mrs Wallis, but I felt I must. I never forget the dear Bishop's Teignton days. With true sympathy, in which Mrs Rowland²⁷⁰ joins,

Your's very sincerely,

Teresa M. M. Rowland.²⁷¹

.

Fore Street,

3. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I do not know how to express my feelings to you for the very great blow you have received in hearing of the death of your dear son. You were all so devoted to each other. I can quite realise that it is a terrible shock to you all. Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis, my heart feels very sad for you and I am sure that my husband will feel the same when he hears of the terrible news.

May you have strength to bear the heavy blow that has fallen on you.
My sister joins with me in deepest sympathy.

Believe me,

Your's truly,

E. and F. Sharland.²⁷²

.

East Street,
Denbury,
Newton Abbot.
15. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I was so sorry to hear that you had lost your eldest son Clifford in action in France. Will you all accept my sincerest sympathy with you in your great trouble.

Your's sincerely.

A. C. Slader.²⁷³

.

Salonica Forces.
30. 5. 18.

Dear Miss Wallis,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 12.5.18. and it is with the deepest regret that I learn of your brother's death in France. I tender my heartfelt sympathy to you and your's in your great bereavement. The memorial card I appreciate greatly, and it is just one more little souvenir that I hope to take back to Devon. Such is the cruel fortune of war, but in your letter you show splendid spirit and it is just that spirit which will win the war

for Britain. The publishers of the book that I wrote you about had only quite a small percentage on hand. These soon went and with the paper shortage and publishing difficulties which prevail in England at the present moment, it will probably be some time before a copy reaches you. However you can rely on me that the book is paid for and will no doubt reach you in due course. It is awfully hot here now and the conditions are trying at times. I can picture fair Devon in my mind's eye now. May and June are always two beautiful months in Devon. Leave from this country is proceeding very slowly and one has really little or no chance of ever getting away. Yes, Lord Poltamore²⁷⁴ has another estate at North Molton. I know my father has been shooting there several times. I am afraid this is a rather poor letter and I rather expect that you have noticed by this time that I do not excel in the art of letter-writing or composition, and the Censor is pretty alert which makes the majority of letters very dry reading. I conclude with renewed sympathy, and hoping that you are keeping quite well,

I remain,

Your's very sincerely

E. N. lindsay.²⁷⁵

.

Salonica Forces,

31. 5. 18.

My dear Miss Wallis,

Please accept my deepest sympathy for you and your's in your recent bereavement. All the time the German offensive was in progress I was wondering how he was getting on in it all.

It was a terrible affair and has robbed me of at least one friend, for I always thought of Clifford as a friend that I should be glad to meet. Lads of his disposition are few, and from what you have told me from time to time in your letters, and from what his Corpl says of him, he was a gentleman in the fullest sense of the word. You have lost a good brother and your father and mother a good son. God help you all to bear the terrible blow. Clifford has not given his life in vain, of that I am sure. The end of the war may not be for some time yet, but before long we shall see the fruits of the heroic stand made by our lads on the Western Front. I passed through Villers-Bretonneux on the way to Cappy when our Batt: held the line for a little of the short time they were in France. I know the place well, and can almost see in my mind the struggle that took place. I knew that the Devons would be in it, for it is a well-known fact that if any hard work was to be done it was the Devons who had a good share in it. Again asking God to help and keep your spirits up.

I remain,

Your's in all sympathy,

Ernest Thomas.²⁷⁶

.

Post Office,
Chagford.
15. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

It has been on my mind several times to write to you all to say how sorry I was to hear of dear Clifford's death.

It must be a very great trial to you. Please accept our deepest sympathy. We can only pray that you may be comforted of God. With kindest remembrances to each of you,

Your's sincerely,

Lily Thorne.

.

Bishop's Teignton.

4. 5. 18.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

I hardly know how to write to you to express my sympathy in the great loss of your dear son. I am sure it must be most painful to bear. It was indeed a shock to me on hearing the news, especially with my own anxiety concerning dear Doris²⁷⁷, who I am glad to say, is going on satisfactorily. Please accept my sympathy and love. Trusting that you will soon recover from this blow, I remain,

Your's very sincerely,

J. Ward.²⁷⁸

.

5 Stanley Gardens,

Teignmouth,

3. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I am indeed deeply grieved to hear from Miss Koebel that you have lost Clifford. Too well I know the awful anxiety you have been going through. Believe me, my heart aches for you as only a mother's can, and I sincerely hope you will find the comfort that

you need so much, in your other dear ones. Try to think only, that your dear boy is at rest and safe from the horrors of this war and may God help you to bear it and soften the wound. Please give my deepest sympathy to Mr Wallis and the family,

I remain,

Your's sincerely,

L. Weston.²⁷⁹

.

School House,
Little Easton,
Essex.
6. 7. 18.

My dear Mr and Mrs Wallis,

We have only this morning heard of your terrible trouble in the loss of dear Clifford. Mrs Keddaway²⁸⁰ of Rixdale wrote to me yesterday and told me. Words fail me to express our deep sorrow for you all. The news has been quite a blow to us, for I never dreamt that poor Clifford would have to go to France, because of his eyesight. I cannot realise that it is true, poor boy. What a terrible grief for you all? It seems awful to think about it. Dear Clifford, he ought to have been the very last boy to have been taken away, such a good boy and loved by everybody. The news has quite upset mother and me. How we do feel for you from our very hearts. I do hope that you are bearing up as well as possible. May God give you strength to bear your grief and sorrow and help you to feel that, however hard it is, "He knows what is best". I can assure you that you have our most heartfelt sympathy. All day we

have talked about the dear boy and pictured him as we often saw him in Devon, but somehow we cannot realise it is true. Today has been nothing but surprises and shocks. Just as we were finishing our dinner a knock came at the door. On Bert²⁸¹ opening the door, I heard a voice asking if this was Little Easton, and could he be told the direction to the Rectory. Somehow I seemed to be attracted by the voice, so I then went to the door, and found that it was Capt Browne. Curiously enough, our Vicar is the Mr Gwynne²⁸² that he knew at Tunbridge Wells. He will tell you all about it. In the Rectory this afternoon Capt Browne was showing us Clifford's photo in Khaki and your latest family group. We wanted him to come and have tea with us, but he was then off to London. The world is small after all. We were so sorry he had not a longer stay and we hope to see him here again. With our deepest and sincerest sympathy to you all.

Your's sincerely,

F. Wight.²⁸³

.

3 Portland Terrace,
Dawlish.
3. 5. 18.

Dear Mrs Wallis,

I have just read of your great loss. I cannot put into words anything to express fully my deepest sympathy with you and Mr Wallis, except this:- That full unfaltering faith in God's perfect wisdom and love will be your stay. Dear boy, he has given his life in the noblest cause possible to a human being, and surely those will be received into greater happiness in Paradise, if it is

possible. May God grant you both strength and calmness in the great hope that in Eternity all will be made clear, that is, all things that are so hard to understand now. Mrs Harvey²⁸⁴ wishes me to express to you both her deepest sympathy. I do most earnestly pray for comfort you both. It only seems such a little way that they are gone from us, And Clifford has joined that "countless host" only a little while earlier than we are to do. The time will not be long as compared with Eternity, before you will meet him again. Please excuse my inability to express all I feel, I know that you will understand.

With best love,

Your's very sincerely,

A. Wotton.²⁸⁵

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A TRIBUTE TO THE NOBLE DEAD. (ANON:)

Dead, did you say? Nay, only Haven-sped.
Just safe in God's Home-port, They are not dead.

==*=*=*

Lost, did you think? How can such lives be lost?
Just gathered up; God's jewels, rare of cost.

==*=*=*

Gone? Nay, just waiting on God's wide shore-line,
The coming of life-vessels---your's-----and mine.

* * * * *

Pirbright Vicarage,

Surrey.

12 / 5 / 19.

My dear Mrs Wallis,

I thank you and Mr Wallis very much for sending me the photo and card in memory of your son Clifford.

I took a great liking for your boy when he was here about the organ. He was so steady at his work, so intelligent and so uniformly courteous whenever I spoke to him. I have often thought of him and wondered if I should ever see him again. I heard from one of the men who came to tune the organ that he had joined up.

I deeply sympathise with you and Mr Wallis in the loss of your dear boy. It is a sorrow which I feel sure is made lighter to you by the knowledge and your remembrance of the boy's good qualities and the thought that he is one who helped to bring a peace which we trust may be unbroken, and justice to all men.

It is I hope also lightened by your realisation of the Communion of Saints. He is not lost, only gone where we hope to go.

Believe me,

Your's sincerely,

Arthur Neild.²⁸⁶

.



The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and The Queen in your sorrow.

He whose loss you mourn died in the noblest of causes. His Country will be ever grateful to him for the sacrifice he has made for Freedom and Justice.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lloyd George', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Secretary of State for War.

A GLORIOUS RECORD

Heroic Stand by the 2nd Devon Regiment

FOUGHT TO THE LAST

Story That Will Ring Through the Ages

of the most glorious records of the war of the 2nd Devons, who were holding a constant position north of the Aisne at the beginning of the German offensive on the 27th of May. Though surrounded by overwhelming odds, they refused to surrender, and fought on to the last until every officer had been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. The story of this thrilling act of heroism and devotion is told in the following pages:—

Castle Hill, South Molton,
Devon.

24th June, 1918.

Editor of the "Express and Echo."

Notwithstanding the pressure on your paper you can find room for this letter and the county annexed, which I have received from Lieut.-General Sir G. Bullock, Colonel of the Devonshire Regt., I trust they will be read with pride throughout the county.

The 2nd Devon Regiment, by its valour and self-sacrifice during the fighting between 26th and 30th May, has once more done great service to the country.

The same post brought me a letter from the War Office of National Service for the South-West, thanking this county for the way in which the agricultural quota has been met. The 2nd Devons have set a high standard for reinforcing drafts, but I am sure they will live up to it.

Lieut.-General Bullock's personal enquiries at the War Office department will be much appreciated. I should like to associate myself most warmly with all his hopes for the safety of the county and his sympathy for those who have fallen so gloriously.

Yours faithfully,

FORTESCUE,

Lord-Lieutenant of Devon.

**Lieut.-Gen. Bullock and the
Glorious Devons**

War Office, Adastral House,

Victoria Embankment, E.C.4.

June 21st, 1918.

Lord Fortescue,—

In a communication I received from Lieut.-General Bullock, Commanding the 8th Division, B.E.F., with regard to the glorious stand of the 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. at the Aisne, I was glad to hear of it until I had got permission to write to the county, as I did not wish to detract from our splendid battalion to know

of the great losses which had occurred until they heard at the same time of the resounding tale of heroism with which they were accompanied.

In notifying this to the county you will tell them how I, as Colonel of the Devonshire Regt., desire to express my heartfelt sympathy with all those who have lost their loved and dear ones. I have been to the casualty department, and enclose a schedule of all the information received as to officers. The casualties of other ranks have not yet been received. It is to be hoped that many of the "missing" may still be alive.

The story of the fight of the 2nd Battalion, which I had the honour to command in South Africa, will ring through the ages, and will show how true the men of Devon are to their motto, "Semper Fidelis."

When I say "this fight," I should say "these fights," as the gallant charge of the 120 tired-out men and their capture of the enemy position will rank as high as the steadfast endurance of the rest of the battalion.

Could anything be more splendid than the calm, quiet constancy of Colonel Anderson-Morhead waiting for the inevitable, but working to the last to make the sacrifice effective in helping others.

Yours very truly,

G. M. BULLOCK,

Lieut.-General,

Colonel of the Devonshire Regt.

The Official Record

The following is the copy of a letter received by Lieut.-General Sir George M. Bullock on June 21st, 1918, from Major-General W. C. G. Heneker, commanding the 8th Division, B.E.F.:—

12th June, 1918.

Dear General,—

I venture to send you a record of what the 2nd Devon Regt. did in the last battle we were in. My orders were to hold on to the position at all costs, and the evening before the battle I passed these orders on to brigades and battalions, and said that I felt convinced that all ranks would do their duty. All my battalions did, nobly. I was fortunate in being able to get the account of two eye-witnesses as to the heroism of all ranks of the 2nd Devons.

I feel sure that, as Colonel of the Regiment, you will be glad to hear how magnificently the 2nd Battalion behaved. Anderson-Morhead, the commanding officer, is missing, but I trust that he has been captured, and is unharmed.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) W. C. G. HENEKER,

Major-General,

The following is the report forwarded by the G.O.C., 8th Division, B.E.F.:—

Headquarters, 8th Division,

25th Infantry, Battalion No. 6, 12/1.

I wish to bring to your especial notice the gallant conduct and excellent discipline of the 2nd Devon Regiment during the battle which began on the 27th May.

This Battalion was sent up on the night, 26th May, to the all-important position of the Aisne, with instructions to defend it to the last against all hostile attacks.

On 27th May, after the enemy had captured our forward and main defences, the 2nd Devon Regiment maintained an unbroken front up to a late hour in the morning. Although surrounded on all sides, and repeatedly attacked, it successfully defeated all attempts of the enemy to advance on its front. The time thus gained was of the utmost value, as it enabled the defences South of the Aisne to be organised, and reinforcing troops to occupy the position unmolested.

An eye-witness states that he saw this regiment, though merely an island in the midst of an innumerable and determined foe, fighting with perfect discipline, and, by the steadiness of their fire, mowing down the enemy in large numbers.

Another eye-witness, a Battery Commander, states as follows:—

"At a late hour in the morning I, with those of my men, who had escaped the enemy's ring of machine guns, and his fearful barrage, found the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Devon Regiment and a handful of his men holding on to the last trench north of the canal. The Commanding Officer was calmly writing his orders with a perfect hell of H.E. falling round him. I spoke to him, and he told me that nothing could be done. He refused all offers of help from my artillerymen, who were unarmed, and sent them off to get through if they could. His magnificent bearing and dauntless courage and determination to carry on to the end moved one's emotion."

There is no doubt that this Battalion perished en masse; they refused to surrender, and fought to the last.

Another Wagon Hill

On 29th May some 120 men of 2nd Devon Regiment, who, at the commencement of the battle, had been back at transport lines, proved that they also had the same high standard of courage and discipline as the rest of their Battalion. This gallant band, though they had been fighting continuously

hours against desperate odds, when upon to counter-attack and drive the off the high ground about two miles of ———, at once responded to the for a further effort. Their swift and advance drove back the enemy, and seized and maintained their hold on the ———, the retention of which was of vital importance to the security of our line.

the undaunted courage of these gallant their unbroken front and high moral, throughout an example and an inspira- to the less stout-hearted and the ———, and I consider their conduct of the highest praise.

(Signed) G. GROGAN,
Brig.-Gen. Commg. 23rd Infantry Bde.
desire to endorse the above recommenda-
of G.O.C., 23rd Infantry Brigade.

Officer Commanding 2nd Devon Regt.
—Col. R. H. Anderson-Mershead,
with 23 other officers and 552 other
practically the whole Battalion in the
North of the River Aisne, fought it out
last, as ordered. A glorious record.

(Signed) W. C. G. HENEKER,
Major-General Commg. 8th Division,
10th, 1918.

Officers' Casualty List

Second-Lieut. A. M. Crabbe, 1st Devons, wounded, 29-5-18; Second-Lieut. B. H. Prance, 7th, attached 1st Devons, wounded, 31-5-18; Capt. A/Major A. H. Cope, D.S.O., 2nd Devons, wounded 30-5-18; Lt. G. H. Morrison, A.S.C., attached 2nd Devons, wounded 28-5-18; Second-Lieut. C. H. Repton, 3rd, attached 2nd Devons, wounded 28-18.

Capt. A/Lt.-Col. R. H. Anderson-Mershead, D.S.O., 2nd Devons; Lt. A/Capt. U. B. Burke, M.C., 2nd Devons; Capt. J. Milner, M.C., A.S.C., attached 2nd Devons; Second-Lieut. W. C. Maunder, M.C., M.M., 2nd Devons; Capt. G. Openshaw, A.S.C., attached 2nd Devons; Lt. T. Oerton, 3rd, attached 2nd Devons; Lt. A. E. Rutledge, 2nd Devons; Lt. W. L. Barrett, A.S.C., attached Devons; Second-Lieut. C. Wreford, 2nd Devons; Lt. A/Capt. J. A. Fergusson, M.C., 9th, attached 2nd Devons; Lt. A/Capt. S. H. Cox, A.S.C., attached 2nd Devons; Second-Lt. F. Malkin, 3rd, attached 2nd Devons; Second-Lt. (?) E. F. B. Hill, 2nd Devons; Lt. E. M. L. Tindal, M.C., 2nd Devons; Capt. E. A. Miller, A.S.C., attached 2nd Devons; Lt. (A/Capt.) W. L.

Clegg, 2nd Devons; Second-Lieut. F. C. Leaf, 2nd Devons; Second-Lt. W. Candler, 2nd Devons; Capt. F. H. Millman, A.S.C., attd., 2nd Devons; Lt. (?) F. B. Harris, 5th South Staffs, attached 2nd Devons; Second-Lt. C. E. Pells, 2nd Devons; Second-Lt. (?) W. T. Cross, 2nd Devons; Second-Lt. R. Lambert, 2nd Devons; Second-Lt. P. R. Adams, S.L.L., attached 2nd Devons, missing, 27-5-18.

Second-Lt. S. J. Cussell, 2nd Devons, killed in action 29-5-18.

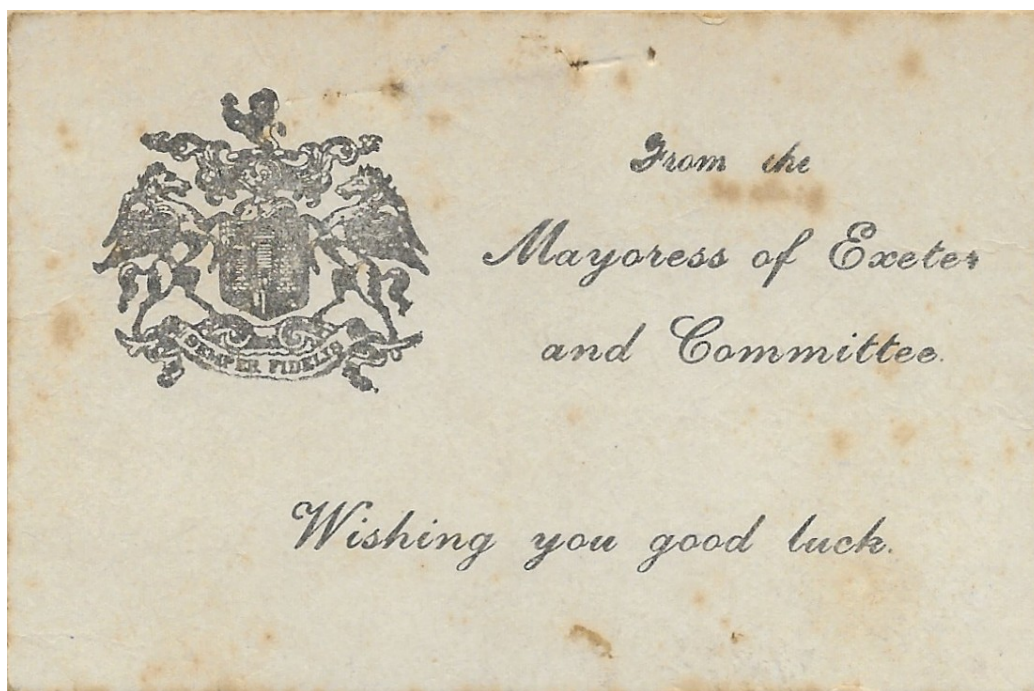
Second-Lt. D. M. Atkinson, 3rd, attached 2nd Devons, wounded 6-6-18.

Copied from EXPRESS AND ECHO.

EXETER. 29th June. 1918.

Of all the heroic deeds of the war, there is not one that can excel the glorious stand made by the 2nd Battalion of the Devons in holding up the enemy when the Germans started their rush to the Marne. A certain position had to be held at all costs in order to allow defences south of the Aisne to be organised, and reinforcing troops to occupy them unmolested. The order was carried out to the letter by the Devons. Faced by fearful odds, attacked on all sides, and deluged with high explosives and machine-gun fire, they held out to the last, mowing down their assailants in large numbers, until practically every man had been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. But when the end came their object had been attained, valuable time had been gained, and the necessary measures taken for holding up the advance on Paris. Though every man perished, this heroic deed of self-sacrifice achieved a great victory, for the noble Six

Hundred-- of whom we may say, as the Poet Laureate wrote of another Six Hundred:- "When shall their glory fade"-- fulfilled the grim task that was set them, and have added one more, and perhaps, the greatest of them all, to the imperishable records of a regiment famous for its valour and steadfastness. There was none of the mad fury and reckless dash of a storming charge about the business these men had in hand. They had to settle down in one position, and with cool courage, steady nerve, and rigid discipline face death, in order that the Army behind might be saved. How nobly they did their duty has been told in graphic, yet simple language by eyewitnesses, and the gallant conduct and excellent discipline of the Devons has been brought to the notice of the Divisional Commander, who has endorsed the high praise bestowed upon Lieut:-Col: Anderson Morshead and his men, and also the company of 120 of the same Battalion, who, after fighting for 48 hours against desperate odds, made a swift and resolute advance, and drove out the enemy from a position of vital importance to the security of the British line, and maintained their hold upon it. It is rarely that the silence is broken regarding the doings of our County Regiment, which is represented in all the battle-areas, East and West, but from the indomitable stand at Givenchy in 1914, down to the present time, in Flanders, France, Palestine, and Mesopotamia, the Devons have maintained the highest morale, and in innumerable engagements displayed the noblest courage. Whoever undertakes the task of continuing Colonel Jackson's book "History of a Regiment", which dealt with the work of the Devons in the Boer War, will have no easy task to perform in doing full honour and justice to the present-day descendants of the "--- Eleventh".



Given to Clifford as he passed through Exeter Station on his way to France. At Exeter food and gifts were distributed by the Mayoress of Exeter and her helpers.

.....





IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

Clifford Edward Wallis,

BATT. OBSERVER 2ND DEVON REGT.,

Killed in action April 25th, 1918,

AGED 22 YEARS.



"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay
down his life for his friends."

29th April, 1918.

MY DEAR MR. AND MRS. WALLIS,

It is with very deepest regret I have to write you these few lines to inform you that poor Clifford was killed in action on the night of the 24/25th inst.

As the N.C.O. in charge of the Battalion Observers, I can assure you that you have the deepest sympathy, not only of his Section, but of the whole of Headquarters, by whom he was very much respected. He was indeed a gentleman, one could not wish for a better fellow, it was an honour to have him in our Section, and I feel we have not only lost a good comrade, but a personal friend, who was ever ready to help others.

It will be some consolation to know he suffered no pain, death being instantaneous, from a bullet wound in the head, and that he was laid to rest by his own comrades behind Villers B—

Once more assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your great loss.

Yours very sincerely,
F. GOLDSMITH
(Cpl. 2nd Devon Rgt.)

*Mr. and Mrs. Wallis and family
thank you most sincerely for your
sympathy with them in their great
loss.*

*School House,
Bishop's Teynton.*

95

Army Form W. 3299.

NOTICE PAPER to be sent to a man who offered himself for enlistment and was rejected since the 14th August, 1915, under the Provisions of the Military Service Act, 1916 (Session 2).

Surname Wallis No. in Milty. Register } 44
 Christian Name Clifford Edward (A.B. 414)
 Address 15, Maple Road Class Number 2
St Thomas, Exeter

You are hereby notified that you will be required to present yourself again for medical examination in accordance with sub-section 2 of section 3 of the Military Service Act, 1916 (Session 2).

It is open to you at any time before the 30th September, 1916, to ask to be medically examined. If you desire to be medically examined before that date, you should address your letter to the Recruiting Officer at **Town Barracks, Exeter** asking for an appointment for such medical examination*. If upon such medical examination you are rejected as unfit for any form of military service, the decision will be final and you will not be called up for service with the Colours.

If you do not arrange to be medically examined on or before the 30th September, 1916, you will be required to present yourself for such medical examination on a date after the 30th September of which you will be duly notified.

At whatever date you are medically examined, if you are found fit for military service, you will be liable to be called up for service with the Colours in accordance with the Military Service Acts, 1916, after the 30th September, 1916.

You should bring this paper with you if you desire to make any enquiries from the Recruiting office.

*A Railway Warrant will be sent if you reside more than 5 miles from the Recruiting Office.



J. L. Wardle Signature.



Date. Colt. MAJOR R.O. Rank.

Place. No. 1 SUB. AREA, EXETER. Appointment.

Field Card

A.F.A. 2042.
114/Gen.No./5248.

FIELD SERVICE
POST CARD



The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

Mr Wallis.
School House.
Bishop's Teignton.
Teignmouth.
Devon.

England

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

I am quite well.

~~I have been a short time in hospital~~
{ sick } and am going well.
{ recovered } and hope to be discharged soon.

~~I am being sent down to the base.~~

I have received your { letter dated _____
telegram ,, _____
parcel ,, _____

Letter follows at first opportunity.
~~I have received no letter from you~~
{ _____ }
{ for a long time.

Signature only } Blifford

Date Aug 28th 1917

Wt. W3497E93. 2024. 6000m. 9716. C. & Co., Grange Mills, S.W.

Clifford Photos - 1

See [L/Cpl Bridgeman's letter](#)



Clifford Photos - 2



Clifford Photos - 3



TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
CLIFFORD EDWARD WALLIS
(BATT. OBSERVER)
2ND BATT. DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT.
KILLED IN ACTION
NEAR VILLERS BRETONNEUX, FRANCE.
APRIL 25TH 1918, AGED 22 YEARS.
—+—
CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE
—+—
AS DEPUTY ORGANIST HE DEVOTED HIS TALENTS
TO THE WORSHIP AND PRAISE OF ALMIGHTY GOD
UPON THIS INSTRUMENT WHICH, AS A BOY, HE
HELPED TO BUILD.

Jesse Eugene Wallis



Jesse Browne



Jack Bridgman



Bridgman Brothers



Ernest Victor Thomas





Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service BA14233

(see [letter of 11.12.17](#))

Hostile concentrations were reported from the air during the day.

During night 23/24th April, 24th Inf. Bde, was relieved in the Right Sector by 23rd Inf. Bde., relief being completed at 11.45 p.m.

Our artillery carried out intense harassing fire and counter-preparation during the night.

24TH APRIL, 1918.

====*==*==*==*==*

Dispositions of troops of 8th Division at 3.45 a.m. on 24th April are shown in Map "B" attached.

At 3.45 a.m. the hostile bombardment opened; this consisted of heavy gas and H.E. shelling and was directed principally against the front system, VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and the CACHY SWITCH.

At 4 a.m. orders were issued for the Reserve Bde. and 22nd D.L.I. to man the Reserve Line System.

The hostile bombardment slackened at 6.30 a.m. when gas shelling ceased and the enemy began to put down smoke along the front. There was a heavy mist and the smoke combined with the mist made it difficult for men in the front line to see more than 20 yards ahead.

The hostile attack started about 7 a.m.

The front attacked appears to have extended from about 800 yards North of the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX ~ WARFUSEE Road to the Southern Divisional boundary and thence Southwards.

The first indication of an attack was the sight of hostile tanks appearing through the mist and smoke. These tanks overran the front line on the front of 2nd West Yorks. Regt, and the two Southern Coys, of 2nd Middlesex Regt, The Northern Coy. of the 2nd Middlesex Regt. and the 2nd Rifle Brigade (further North) apparently had no tanks against them.

Hostile tanks do not appear to have been followed closely by infantry, and it seems that their role was to cross our front line, move up and down the trenches, destroy the defenders, and prepare the way for the infantry to advance later.

Our troops used rifles, Lewis Guns and Machine Guns against the tanks, but with little apparent effect.

Of the two Coys. of the 2nd Middlesex Regt. which were attacked by tanks, every officer and man is missing. Of the three Coys. of 2nd West. Yorks. Regt. in front line, there are a few survivors.

/The

The first news the O.C. 2nd West Yorks. Regt. received of the commencement of the attack was the sight of three tanks bearing down from the S.E. against his reserve Coy. Heavy fire was opened on them; two turned away and were not seen again, and the third came close up to their Positions and then went away.

The reserve Coy. of the 2nd West Yorks. Regt. remained in position until about 9 a.m. when it was compelled to fall back owing to heavy fire from VILLERS BRETONNEUX, after which it took up a position about O.27.d,

As regards the 2nd Middlesex Regt., only 1 Officer and 6 men of the reserve Coy. got back to Battalion H.Q. The remainder of the reserve Coy. was overrun by the tanks.

When the two Southern companies of the 2nd Middlesex Regt. were destroyed by the tanks, the enemy got round the Right and rear of the Northern Coy. and, after a desperate fight, very few of this Coy. got away. The survivors fell back in a N.W. direction towards the group of houses in P.25.c. informing the Coy. of the 2nd Rifle Brigade just North of the main road, of the situation.

At this time the 2nd Rifle Brigade (25th Inf. Bde.) was beginning to suffer from fire from their Right flank and rear. The two Southern Coys. suffered very severely and finally threw back their Right flank, joining up with the 2nd R. Berks. Regt. who were holding the reserve line in O.30.

The Northern Coy. of the 2nd Rifle Brigade maintained its position throughout the day, killing great many Germans.

The 2nd East Lancs. Regt. and 6 Machine Guns were holding VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

Some days before the attack, the town was heavily bombarded with gas shells and it was found necessary to place the garrison round the outskirts of the town.

The 2 Coys. 2nd East Lancs. Regt. who were defending the Eastern outskirts of the town were overrun by tanks in the first stages of the attack. Tanks also drove in the Southern Coy. From 80 to 100 men of this Battalion collected at Battalion H.Q. and were disposed by the O.C. Battalion on a line facing the town through O.28.cent. on both sides of the railway. They held this position until late in the afternoon being constantly attacked, but they held on, and prevented the enemy debouching from the N.W. side of the village. Had this line given way a serious situation would have arisen.

/By...

By about 9 a.m. the enemy had succeeded in occupying the Northern outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX about 0.29.cent. and from here they fired against the Right and Rear of the two Coys. of the 2nd R. Berks. Regt. holding the VILLERS Line.

These Companies were compelled to fall back, pivoting on their Left, and joined up with their two support Coys. They then formed a line facing the town from about 0.22.d, to 0.24. cent.

2nd Rifle Brigade withdrew their Right and joined up with 2nd R. Berks. Regt, at 0.24.cent.

The G.O.C. 25th Inf. Bde. and the O.C. 2nd R. Berks. Regt. made various arrangements for launching a counter-attack during the morning, but owing to the mist and the difficulty of ascertaining the situation, it was not found possible to do so.

Situation of the counter-attack battalion of the Right Bde. i.e., 2d Devon. Regt. (23rd Inf. Bde.) appears to have been as follows:

2nd Devon. Regt. was subjected to very severe gas shelling from 3.45 a.m. onwards, and two of their Companies were compelled to wear gas masks for three hours. The mist and smoke made it almost impossible to see more than 50 yards ahead.

As no men of the 2nd West Yorks. Regt withdrew through the 2nd Devon, Regt., the first intimation that the O.C. 2nd Devon. Regt. received of a hostile attack was the sight of a tank which appeared from the South about U.4.central and came up to Battalion H.Q. at 0.34.c.5.0. blowing away the parapet and then moving away.

After the first tank had moved away, three more hostile tanks appeared and attacked the two companies of 2nd Devon. Regt. in trenches in 0.35.c. causing them severe casualties and forcing them to withdraw into the BOIS D'AQUENNE. M.G. fire from the S. and S.W. outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX then began to be very heavy against the remaining two Coys. of the 2nd Devon, Regt. in the CACHY SWITCH. This fire took their trenches in enfilade and caused them severe casualties.

Three British tanks (acting under orders of 8th Division) appeared about this time (10 a.m.) and, moving along the S. outskirts of the BOIS D'AQUENNE, got to about 0.34.cent. and silenced all machine gun fire from the railway. Under cover of these tanks the O.C. 2nd Devon. Regt. was able to reorganise his Battalion and throw back its left flank.

At 9.30 a.m. G.A.766 was issued from Div. H.Q.:-

"Enemy has penetrated the Western outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. 23rd inf. Bde. will counter-attack at once with reserve battalion against Western outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Objective - road running N. and S, through the town from 0.35.a.6.2 to 0.29.c.5.9. 2nd Devon. Regt. will gain touch with Right of 25th Inf. Bde. which has been thrown back to about 0.22.d.8.0. Two tanks are moving

/to ..

to O.27.a. and will attack from there in an Easterly direction. Objective - road junction O.29.a.5.3. Reserve Battalion of 24th Inf. Bde. (1st Sherwood Fors:) is placed forthwith at disposal of 23rd Inf. Bde. for protection of right flank about CACHY and OACHY SWITCH. 24th Inf. Bde. (less 1st Sherwood Fors:) and 22nd D.L.I. will hold the reserve line under G.O.C. 24th Inf. Bde."

(NOTE:- The 1st Sherwood Fors: had originally been allotted to the 23rd Inf, Bde. for protection of the Right flank in the CACHY SWITCH, but as the 2nd Devon. Regt. was holding this locality, permission was asked by 23rd Inf. Bde., to utilise the 1st Sherwood Fors: for the counter-attack, and this was granted).

At 11.15 a.m. the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. was placed at disposal of 8th Division, and was ordered to rendezvous at BLANGY TRONVILLE.

At 11.50 a.m. 22nd D.L.I. were ordered to move to O.22.c and O.28.a. where they would come into reserve under orders of 25th Inf. Bde.

The counter-attack of the 1st Sherwood Fors: did not achieve its object. The Battalion moved in artillery formation along the southern edge of the wood until they arrived at about 12.30 pm. at U.4.a.1.9. where they moved Northwards into the wood and encountered the enemy in some strength, driving him towards the Eastern edge of the wood. At this time the Commanding Officer was wounded as a result of which correct orders were not issued to the Battalion, which withdrew and commenced to dig in on the road running through U.33.c. - U.33.a. and O.27.d. while digging in here it came under a very heavy 5.9" barrage and suffered severely. As a result of this, during the afternoon and up to nightfall, a gap existed between the right of the Pioneers on the railway about O.28.c. and the Left of the 2nd Devon. Regt. in hollow road about O.34.d.

Of the two tanks which attacked from O.27.a. with the objective the road junction about O.29.a.5.3. one was put out of action by a direct hit at about 2 p.m. in vicinity of O.27.central. The other tank moved forward and worked round the copse in O.28.b., drove the Germans from it and enabled the 2nd E. Lancs. Regt. to advance their line so that their Left rested on the Copse in O.28.b., in touch with 2nd R. Berks. Regt., and their Right on the railway in O.28.d.0.2.

The assistance rendered by this tank was very valuable. The approximate situation of the troops of the Division at 12 Noon is shown on attached Map "C".

When the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. arrived, it was disposed as follows:-

One Battalion in Northern portion of reserve Line System under orders of 24th Inf. Bde. The remainder of the Brigade

/in ...

in assembly positions in the neighbourhood of O.31. At about 11 a.m. I spoke to G.O.C. 25th Inf. Bde. on the telephone and ordered him to make preparations to counter-attack with the 2nd R. Berks. Regt. and 2 Coys. of the 2nd Rifle Brigade to recapture the Northern portion of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

After consultation with the 2 Battalion Commanders concerned, G.O.C, 25th Inf. Bde, informed me that this counter-attack would probably be very costly even if successful, owing to the fact that the enemy had installed groups of machine guns in the Northern outskirts of the town and was sweeping all the approaches with fire. I thereupon cancelled this operation.

About the same hour, G.O.C. III Corps ordered me to get in touch with G.O.C. 5th Aust. Division for the purpose of arranging a counter-attack against the Northern part of the town. I spoke to the G.O.C. 5th Aust. division on the telephone and found that he had only two Battalions available. I considered that to employ these with my own troops N. of the town over the open slopes which were swept by machine gun fire, and with hurriedly prepared artillery preparation (which was the only preparation which this counter-attack could have had), would have been a waste of troops. I reported therefore to the G.O.C. III Corps by telephone that I did not consider that a counter-attack of this nature in daylight was advisable, but suggested that under cover of darkness with a full moon, such an operation would be successful. The Corps Commander agreed with me.

During the whole day, the artillery gallantly held their positions, sweeping the N. and N.W. exits of the town by direct fire and materially aiding the infantry in preventing the enemy from exploiting his initial success. A great number of these guns and batteries were under machine gun fire but refused to withdraw and suffered heavily. My O.R.A. came to me about 2 p.m. and asked permission to withdraw some of the most forward guns to positions where they would not be under such direct machine gun fire and from which they could sweep the exits of the town as effectively. I gave this permission.

So the situation remained during the afternoon, the Germans being unable to push forward in face of the artillery, machine gun and rifle fire which was brought to bear on them.

Between 3 and 4 p.m. the G.O.C. III Corps called me up on the telephone and informed me that a counter-attack was to be launched that evening from the N. and S. of the town, that the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. would attack from the N.W. on a line through O.24.cent. and O.25.cent. with its Right on the North Eastern outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, - objective our original front line as far South as P.31.cent. The

/13th ...

Aust. Inf. Bde. were to attack South of the town with its Left on the Southern edge of the town and its Right on the Southern Divisional boundary; it was to capture the MONUMENT and WOOD and join up with 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. at P.31.cent. on the Left, while its Right would be at the cross roads in U.6.c. the 54th Inf. Bde. of the 18th Division was also ordered to co-operate and recapture our original front line in the 58th Divisional Area.

Two Battalions of 8th Division were to mop up VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

I decided to employ the 22nd D.L.I. to mop up the town from the N. side in co-operation with the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. and the 2nd North'n. Regt. in co-operation with the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde.

I sent for the G.O.C. 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. and the Battn. Commanders of the other Battalions concerned and held a conference at Divisional Headquarters with them between 6 and 7 p.m. It was decided that the 2nd North'n. Regt. should move behind the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. and then turn Northwards against the railway. This Battn. was placed under the orders of G.O.C. 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. The 22nd D.L.I. was similarly placed under the orders of the G.O.C. 15th Aust. Inf. Bde.

By 7 p.m. verbal instructions had been issued and verbal orders received from III Corps, that Zero hour was to be 10 p.m.

Information was also received verbally from III Corps that all three attacking Brigades would be under my orders for the actual attack.

Owing to the short time given for preparation and moving into position of the troops for the counter-attack, none of them got off at Zero hour. This was unfortunate, for the artillery placed a standing barrage on the railway from the Cross roads in O.34.b. to O.36.d.9.0. A standing barrage was also placed on the Western edge of the MONUMENT WOOD. This barrage opened at 10 p.m. and lifted at 11 p.m. on to our old S.O.S. Line covering the original front line.

The delay in starting meant that the attacking troops were not covered as they might have been by this standing barrage.

The Brigade on the N. encountered little opposition during its advance, and by daylight on the morning of the 25th, had occupied roughly the line from P.25.b.9.9. through P.25.central to O.36.central. They had very few casualties.

The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. however, during its advance, came under machine gun fire from the railway about O.34.b. 8.8, and suffered a number of casualties as they passed through a line of barbed wire which ran N.E. and S.W. in front of CACHY SWITCH.

/Previous ...

Previous to the launching of the counter-attack, certain troops of the 23rd Inf. Bde. were ordered to move through the BOIS D'AQUENNE from the S., occupy the attention of the enemy who happened to be in that wood, and so protect the Left flank of the counter-attack, This was successfully accomplished and the counter-attack was not interfered with from this wood at all.

The 2nd North'n. Regt. which followed the counter-attack, swung to the Left on clearing the S. edge of the BOIS D'AQUENNE, and advanced against the S. portion of the town. When they got within 800 yards of the railway they were met by very heavy machine gun fire from the railway and could not get on.

The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. managed to get to the MONUMENT but had to drop back from there and form a line N.E. and S.W. through U.5.central in touch with the 2nd North'n, Regt. on the N. and joining up with the 54th Inf. Bde. on the S. who had not been able to advance as far as had been ordered.

Orders were sent to the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. to endeavour to work round the S.E. edge of the village and so join up with the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. at O.36.central. This at first they found impossible to do because the village was in the hands of the enemy,

As regards the 22nd D.L.I., who were ordered to mop up the village from the N., they were directed by the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. to enter the village with their Right on the railway about O.28.d.5.0. and their Left on the road about O.28.b.0.8. They encountered very heavy M.G. fire and it was not until they managed to dribble parties along the railway line into the town and so attack the enemy in flank and rear, that their attack managed to get on. They did not succeed in entering the town until daylight.

25TH APRIL, 1918.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

At 4 a.m., being informed that the 22nd D.L.I, had not succeeded in entering the town, I sent word to the G.O.C. 25th Inf. Bde. and ordered him to send forward 2nd R. Berks. Regt. to attack and enter the town from the North.

This operation of the 2nd R. Berks. Regt. was carried out with great dash at daylight and succeeded in the early morning mist after encountering a good deal of opposition.

This Battalion entered the town about O.29.central and joining with the 22nd D.L.I., these two battalions very soon made their presence felt, and pushed down rapidly through the town Killing and capturing the enemy who were there. Not more than an hour had elapsed after the attack had penetrated the town before I received a message to say that the 2nd R. Berks. Regt. had already captured 15 machine guns and 200 prisoners.

/During...

During the morning the 2nd R. Berks. Regt. were withdrawn to their original position and the mopping up of the town handed over to the 22nd D.L.I.

As a result of this mopping up, prisoners taken at VILLERS BRETONNEUX amounted to about 400 and over 100 machine guns were captured.

This operation lasted most of the day and early in the afternoon the S.E. corner of the village was finally cleared, and a firm line was established linking up the 13th and 15th Aust. Inf. Bdes.

In the meantime the BOIS D'AQUENNE had been finally, cleared of the enemy by the joint action of parties of the 2nd Middlesex Regt., 2nd West Yorks. Regt. and 1st Sherwood Foresters. One Officer and 73 men were captured here and a number of machine guns and trench mortars, including a battery of heavy trench mortars, were also taken.

A line was firmly established on the E. edge of the Wood, linking up with the 25th Inf. Bde. on the railway near O.28.central and CACHY SWITCH on the S.

By 12 Noon, Anti-Tank guns were installed, one on the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX Road just E. of the houses at O.26.d.4.4., one in the E. edge of the BOIS D'AQUENNE about O.34.a.7.7. and one near the corner of the wood in O.3.a.6.6 The garrison of VILLERS BRETONNEUX was re-organised during the afternoon and by 6 p.m. troops were in position, vide Map "D".

Four tanks were placed at disposal of 8th Division early in the afternoon to assist in mopping up the S.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, but these never reached the town. A separate report regarding orders issued to them has been forwarded under this Office No.27/43.A. dated 27th April, 1918.

As regards the situation further South, the French MOROCCAN Division were to attack at daylight on the 25th and capture MONUMENT WOOD. The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. were ordered to push forward their Right and conform. This attack of the French never materialised. The French took over the line from the 54th Inf. Bde. and joined up with the Right of the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde

Various reports were received during the course of the day on the 25th, that the enemy were massing and moving forward to the attack in different places. Our artillery was very active and none of these attacks materialised.

/At

At 6 pm. on 25th, orders were received that an attack would be carried out next morning by the III Corps and the MOROCCAN Division at 5.15 a.m., in order to re-establish the line from the S. edge of the BOIS de HANGARD at U.23.b. 1.8, to the MONUMENT inclusive, and the 8th Division were to conform. This attack, although launched at the hour named, did not succeed in gaining any ground in U.5. owing to heavy machine gun fire from the MONUMENT WOOD. A certain amount of ground was re-captured by the French to the south.

26TH APRIL, 1918.

====*==*==*==*==*

During the morning of the 26th as machine gun fire was still very bad from the MONUMENT WOOD, the G.O.C. III Corps asked me if I could capture it.

I sent down to the G.O.C. MOROCCAN Division and asked him if he would co-operate and push forward his Left if I succeeded in capturing the MONUMENT WOOD and establishing my line on the edge of it. He agreed to do this.

Orders were issued for the 1st Worcester. Regt. to be withdrawn to the W. edge of the BOIS L'ABBE and their place to be taken by the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. Arrangements were also made for the 1st Sherwood Fors. to be withdrawn out of the reserve line and their place taken by the 2nd North'n. Regt., who by this time had been withdrawn from the Southern outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. The 1st Worcester Regt. and 1st Sherwood Fors. were informed that they must be prepared to attack that night and capture the MONUMENT WOOD.

All orders were drawn out for the attack and for the creeping barrage, and the G.O.C. 24th Inf. Bde. together with the two Commanding Officers concerned, were brought to Divisional Headquarters by car to receive their instructions, These Commanding Officers reported that their battalions were not in a fit state to attack after the length of time they had been in the line and owing to the heavy casualties they had suffered.

I reported this to the G.O.C. III Corps at about 6.30 p.m. by telephone and the attack was cancelled.

/27TH..

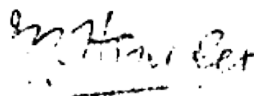
27TH APRIL, 1918.

====*==*==*==*==*

On the morning of the 27th, orders were received that the 8th Division would be relieved by the 4th Aust. Division commencing on the night 27th/28th April.

No further action on the part of the enemy took place against the 8th Divisional front during the time the Division was in the line, and the relief was duly carried out as ordered.

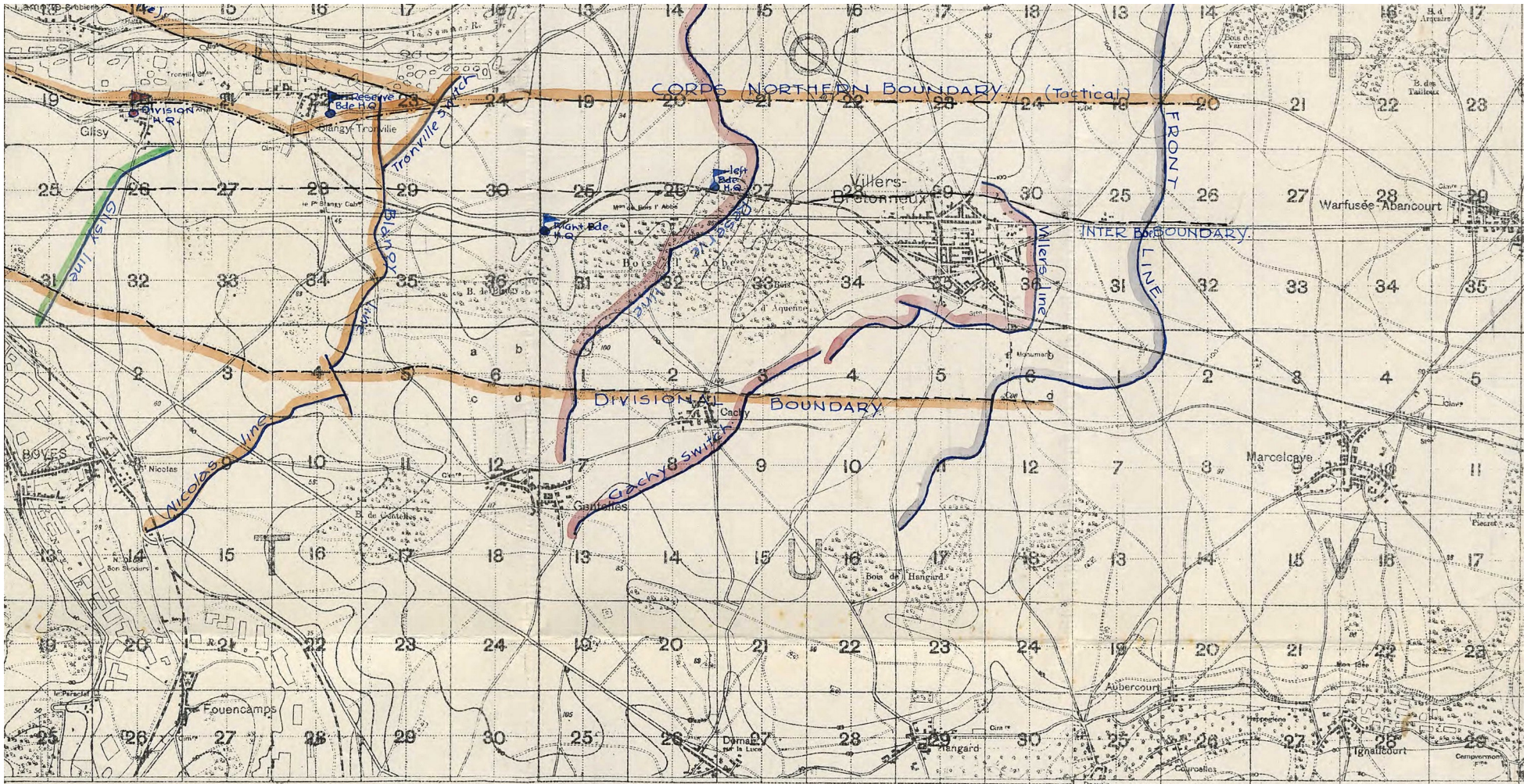
A statement of casualties (Appendix 3) and the order of Battle of the 8th Division (Appendix II), are attached.



8th Division,
5th May, 1918.

Major-General,
Commanding 8th Division.

Narrative of operations and following maps from WO 95/1678/0 National Archives



REFERENCE.

- Front line System
- Reserve line System
- Nicolis-Blarqy Troville System
- Glisy line.

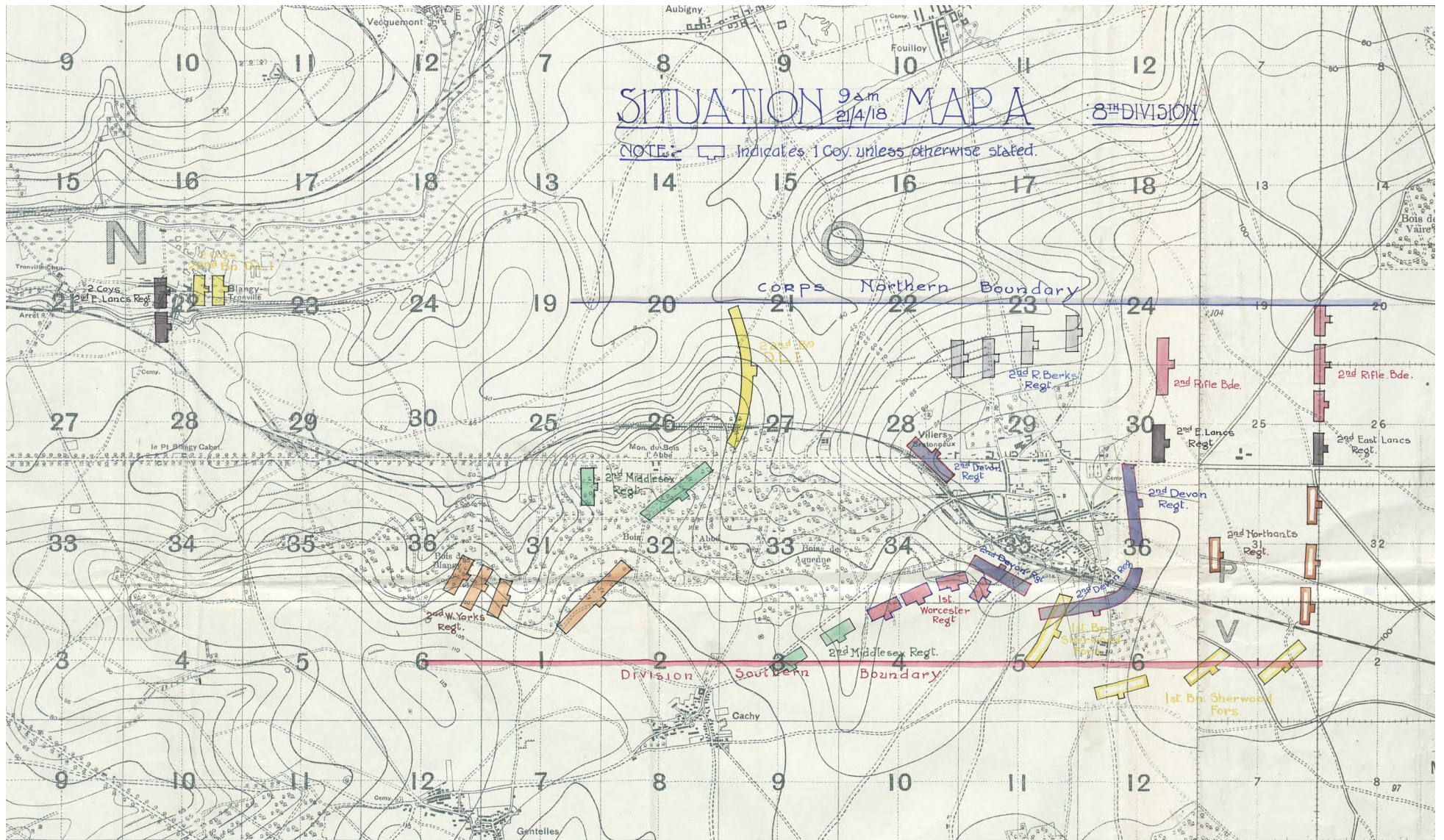


SITUATION MAP A

9 a.m.
2/14/18

8TH DIVISION

NOTE: □ Indicates 1 Coy. unless otherwise stated.



Diary

This diary has been researched from the letters in conjunction with various war diaries - 2nd Devons, 8th Division, and 23rd Inf. Bde.

Clifford's time in the army can be divided into 6 main sections:

1. Training (before 21/10/1916 – 23/03/1917). Tregantle, Cornwall. Devonport, Devon. Rouen, France

2. Moislains area (24/03/1917 – 02/06/1917). During this time, the Germans were carrying out a strategic retreat to the Hindenberg Line destroying villages as they retreated to prevent them being easily defended.

3. After Moislains, the 2nd Devon Regiment relocated to Ypres. Clifford was spared this owing to "Trench Foot", and spent much of the summer of 1917 in various hospitals, before returning to Rouen, before redeployment (03/06/1917 – 20/08/1917).

4. Ploegsteert area (20/08/1917 - 18/11/1917). The lines appear to have been fairly static in this area at this time. Clifford joined the Observation Section whilst here.

5. Ypres (18/11/1917 – 22/03/1918). There were two periods of rest spent during this time at Setques, and Clifford managed to spend some time on leave with his family in Bishop's Teignton, with a brief stop-over in Bristol.

6. The German Spring Offensive (23/03/1918 - 24/04/1918). The German spring offensive began on the 21st of March 1918. The 2nd Devons were rushed to the front as the German army advanced on the Somme at St. Christ's bridge. They then retreated back to Moreuil, and after a brief break in Saleux in billets, were brought back in for the fateful defence of Villers-Bretonneux.

Date	Time	Location	Notes	Source	Letter	Google Maps Link
21/10/16		Granby Barracks		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.37313919046387,-4.1769087297591385
25/10/16		Tregantle		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.35788404795419,-4.269611414481444
29/10/16	Evening	Antony Church	With Sexton & organist from another church (Levi May)	letter	31/10/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.36938075336528,-4.253452685470567
04/11/16		Devonport	bought Devon brooch	letter	5/11/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.37135742696948,-4.180188129261229
05/11/16	Evening	Antony Church		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.36938075336528,-4.253452685470567
11/11/16	14:00:00 – 21:30:00	Wearde Camp Saltash	Long (unsuccessful) trip to find Jesse	letter	13/11/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.4000635551195,-4.223125099412245
18/11/16		Devonport-Sailors' Rest	Met with Daddie	letter	19/11/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.37135742696948,-4.180188129261229
19/11/16		32 Alexandra Rd. Mutley	Visit Risdon's	letter	20/11/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.38102980637368,-4.131220425173756
25/11/16		Devonport-Sailors' Rest		letter	26&27/11/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.37135742696948,-4.180188129261229

26/11/16	Evening	Antony Church	With Mr May from Ashwater (Levi May)	letter	26&27/11/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.36938075336528,-4.253452685470567
04/12/16		Bishops Teignton		letter	1/12/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.55282186484523,-3.539219279891675
10/12/16		Tregantle		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.35788404795419,-4.269611414481444
11/12/16		Granby Barracks		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.37313919046387,-4.1769087297591385
16/12/16		Guildhall Plymouth	RM band & Mr. Moreton	letter	18/12/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.36987449968672,-4.1416853747872455
18/12/16		“Woodlands” location approximate	Live bomb thrown at “Woodlands”	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.41869428766061,-4.142723871495419
21/12/16		“Woodlands” location approximate		letter	20/12/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.41869428766061,-4.142723871495419
24/12/16	Evening	St. Andrew’s Plymouth	Mr. Moreton’s Church	letter	25/12/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.369962029288196,-4.139930104813191
28/12/16		“Woodlands” location approximate		letter	27/12/16	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.41869428766061,-4.142723871495419

30/12/16	Afternoon	Guildhall Plymouth	Daddie visits and stays overnight. Messiah at the Guildhall	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.36987449968672,-4.1416853747872455
01/01/17		“Woodlands” location approximate	Pointless trip whilst ill	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.41869428766061,-4.142723871495419
05/01/17		“Woodlands” location approximate		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.41869428766061,-4.142723871495419
08/01/17		“Woodlands” location approximate	rain and hail digging trenches	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.41869428766061,-4.142723871495419
17/01/17	07:30:00	Granby Barracks		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.37313919046387,-4.1769087297591385
18/01/17		Exeter	Tea with the Mayoress	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.7259933494348,-3.533322356612775
19/01/17	01:30:00	No.2 IBD Rouen		letter	19/1/17 – 20/3/17	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.44295273584646,1.0982175986277356
23/03/17		No.2 IBD Rouen		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.44295273584646,1.0982175986277356
24/03/17		Moislains	Support Moislains, draft of 5 officers & 74 other ranks	HQ-23rdInfBde		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98915256896823,2.965705136953107

25/03/17		Moislains	right outpost	HQ-23rdInfBde		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98915256896823,2.965705136953107
27/03/17	11:00:00	Lieramont	A coy entered lieramont at 11am and dug in beyond village.	2nd Devons diary	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.994614460748245,3.0540678250380293
27/03/17	16:00:00	Moislains	left moisliains at 16:00	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.99171826766884,2.967870579894561
29/03/17	20:00:00	Lieramont	Preparing to Attack Heudecourt A Coy in reserve	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.99541777992221,3.0546273335059047
30/03/17	11:00:00	Heudecourt	A Coy to attack the right of the village	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.01564615638032,3.07766056862358
30/03/17	16:15:00		Attack launched – A Coy came under MG fire from right flank	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.02540901521191,3.0904195077800822
30/03/17	18:40:00	Heudecourt	Dug in NE of the village	Various diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.028129911257466,3.090138089627008
01/04/17			“	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.028129911257466,3.090138089627008
02/04/17	05:30:00	Moislains?	In Billets “Dead Beat”	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98915256896823,2.965705136953107

06/04/17			A coy inspected by brigadier“entirely satisfactory”	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98915256896823,2.965705136953107
07/04/17		Aizecourt Le Bas	Entire Batt moved to Aizecourt	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98175530192475,3.0302136631691745
10/04/17		Nurlu	marched to Nurlu	2nd Devons diary	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.00385196004077,3.0196800582638796
11/04/17		Guyencourt	Billeted at Guyencourt	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.999010992992424,3.0792192941916627
14/04/17	18:30:00	Guyencourt	A coy moved off from Guyencourt at 6.30 pm	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.999010992992424,3.0792192941916627
14/04/17		East of Gauche Wood		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.041943205009865,3.1417246958682155
16/04/17		North of Gauche Wood		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.04536455546889,3.1379438787041654
17/04/17			To form strong defensive flank for attack on Villers-Guislains	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.04617387152445,3.1456200832493577
18/04/17		East of Villers-Guislains		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.04124418940211,3.1615453443775654

21/04/17		West of Villers-Guislains		2nd Devons diary	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.04164888387136,3.145562799093174
23/04/17			Withdraw to Sorel	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.02462773162843,3.0506876497141775
24/04/17	00:30:00	Sorel	in billets	2nd Devons diary	<u>25th-27th</u>	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.02462773162843,3.0506876497141775
01/05/17	23:15:00		Leave Sorel Le Grande – flowers in letter probably from Sorel	2nd Devons diary	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.05197495633453,3.17279767305115
06/05/17		Gonnelieu	Move to front line towards Sonnet Farm / La Vacquerie			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.07050664146328,3.1630148404220546
07/05/17						https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.04231978750241,3.1280227720070677
08/05/17			Digging trenches Front Line			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.05753885163278,3.1610564772232044
11/05/17		Villers-Guislains				https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.04603112529609,3.1486369375801906

14/05/17	2.30 am – 5 am	Aizecourt Le Bas	Camp	2nd Devons diary	<u>15th-27th</u>	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98164411595675,3.0301076847754373
29/05/17	07:15:00	Aizecourt Le Bas	Struck camp	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98164411595675,3.0301076847754373
29/05/17	13:30:00	Curly	Camp 162	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.96556404435687,2.818372254668739
01/06/17	06:30:00	Curly	Left Curly	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.96556404435687,2.818372254668739
01/06/17	10:45:00	Ville	Ville-sur-Ancre	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.96183073842244,2.6108134345242826
02/06/17	22:50:00	Mericult	Marched to Edgehill Station where Battalion entrained	2nd Devons diary	<u>yes</u>	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.95566236357149,2.572526847977424
03/06/17	13:00:00	Bailleul	Marched to Merris – but probably not Clifford	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.72912591182602,2.734497126443366
04/06/17		Probably Bailleul asylum	In hospital	letter		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.74677415547275,2.74285620234915
06/06/17					<u>yes</u>	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.74677415547275,2.74285620234915

07/06/17		Outtersteene	On way back to join the boys	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71401773719742,2.6859595176664417
12/06/17		Another hospital-1			yes	?
17/06/17		Another hospital-1	Early service	letter		?
21/06/17		Another hospital-2		letter	yes	?
26/06/17			being sent to Base for a day or so	letter	yes	?
05/07/17		25th Gen. Hospital – Hardelot	view of the sea	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.63531174745484,1.580227079210322
07/07/17		Base detail camp		letter	yes	?
09/07/17		No.2 IBD Rouen		letter	09/07/17-15/09/17	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.44295273584646,1.0982175986277356
14/08/17			rest camp up the line	letter	yes	?
15/08/17					yes	?
16/08/17		?	shifted to another place	letter	yes	?
20/08/17			23rd Inf Bde debus. Before Clifford joined them	8th Division Diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.76952331915252,2.575982402781552
20/08/17		1.5 miles NW of Caestre	a draft of 314 other ranks joined the battalion	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.76605282704952,2.568174495786422
21/08/17	10:15:00	La Brearde	divisional parade ground inspected at 12:30:00	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.7532175338306,2.5544397429591896

22/08/17	06:00:00	Caestre		8th Division Diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.76605282704952,2.568174495786422
23/08/17		1.5 miles NW of Caestre	back with the Batt. A draft of 4 other ranks joined	2nd Devons diary	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.76936845266452,2.575408791783848
27/08/17		opposite Customs house about a mile S of Neuve Eglise	marched to camp	2nd Devons diary	<u>Field Card.- 28/08/17</u>	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.73231302974538,2.8132497239466057
31/08/17		Ploegsteert area – River Lys	Front Line , Left ‘A’ Company	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.74150716137989,2.9305268094097405
01/09/17			Left Battalion in Line	HQ- 23rdInfBde		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.72932441143841,2.912940567347946
02/09/17					yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.72932441143841,2.912940567347946
06/09/17	22:00:00	Left for billets Le Rossignol area		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71203195054583,2.84859703113984
07/09/17		Divnl. Baths Papot	Rev. G. Bateman [107] on leave	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.7182177992624,2.82823720751857
08/09/17		In Billets Le Rossignol		2nd Devons diary	<u>9th-10th</u>	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71203195054583,2.84859703113984

12/09/17		Ploegsteert Sector	A Coy reserve – Convent?	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.72932441143841,2.912940567347946
18/09/17		Le Rossignol	Return to Billets	2nd Devons diary	22/09/17	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71203195054583,2.84859703113984
24/09/17	20:30:00		Moved to take over line – ‘A’ left front company			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.73184074215775,2.9119215568213237
30/09/17	21:30:00	Pont de Nieppe		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.69783057149674,2.8558622482562726
08/10/17			Batt in the line	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.72932441143841,2.912940567347946
16/10/17		Le Rossignol	Batt relieved	2nd Devons diary	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71203195054583,2.84859703113984
20/10/17		Le Rossignol	Very successful concert	2nd Devons diary + letter	20th-22nd	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71203195054583,2.84859703113984
24/10/17	Evening		In trenches	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.72932441143841,2.912940567347946
01/11/17	Night	Le Rossignol		2nd Devons diary	05/11/17	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71203195054583,2.84859703113984

08/11/17		“The Convent”	In trenches	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.72932441143841,2.912940567347946
11/11/17	19:00:00	Le Rossignol		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71203195054583,2.84859703113984
12/11/17		Berquin	Marched to Billets in the Berquin area (under temp orders of 25th Inf Bde)	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.694992694592116,2.6444892534670563
17/11/17	12:30:00	Merris	marched to new billets Merris area			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71597528277893,2.660697590499679
18/11/17	13:30:00		marched to Caestre	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.76196029686062,2.597371286992046
18/11/17	16:30:00	Caestre	entrained for Brandhoek	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.76196029686062,2.597371286992046
18/11/17	18:00:00	Brandhoek camp “B”		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.8567962409305,2.7862421612692763
19/11/17	13:00:00	Wieltje camp “A”		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.870779538049014,2.91822557022868
23/11/17	15:00:00	Meetcheele	Batt moved up the line N. of Passchendaele. Batt HQ at Metcheele	2nd Devons diary	24/11/17	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.90275965178886,3.0062546220261264

30/11/17	After dark	“E” camp St. Jean		2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.864878402528404,2.904372474962337
02/12/17	08:00:00	St. Jean	Entrained	2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.864878402528404,2.904372474962337
02/12/17		Wizernes	Detrained	2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.70559041106458,2.2295017026550337
02/12/17		Setques	Billets	2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.712025741699854,2.1573284547740648
11/12/17			Letter of 11/12/17 describes school house of Setques	letter	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71215750298549,2.1572357028639346
27/12/17	04:30:00	march to Wizernes	entrain for Brandhoek	2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.70559041106458,2.2295017026550337
27/12/17	10:30:00	Brandhoek camp “B”		2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.8567962409305,2.7862421612692763
30/12/17		Vlamertinghe	Divisional Baths at Vlamertinghe	2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.853609150067,2.824415201332806
30/12/17	14:15:00	Junction Camp. St. Jean		2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.864878402528404,2.904372474962337
01/01/18		Brandhoek camp “B”		2nd Devons diary	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.8567962409305,2.7862421612692763

03/01/18		Bellevue Details at Brake camp	Moved off to Bellevue	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.899011426666014,2.9967820765601845
05/01/18		PillBox 83		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.9039300673367,2.990726565540815
07/01/18	17:30:00	Wieltje entrain to Branhoek camp "B"		2nd Devons diary	09/01/18	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.8567962409305,2.7862421612692763
11/01/18	12:30:00	Entrained Haslar Siding for Wieltje. Marched to North of Passchendaele		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.905042443712134,3.0127052632239977
13/01/18		relieved to Bellevue		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.899011426666014,2.9967820765601845
15/01/18		march back to Wieltje	entrain for Brandhoek	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.870779538049014,2.91822557022868
15/01/18		Brandhoek camp "B"		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.8567962409305,2.7862421612692763
16/01/18	11:00:00	leave for Godewaersvelde		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.793544982015256,2.642871291515473
16/01/18		march to Winnezele area		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.84055271242867,2.5507475603306102

26/01/18	09:15:00	march to Winnezeele	entrain for Poperinghe	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.84055271242867,2.5507475603306102
26/01/18		Poperinghe. The Cloisters		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.85196072231497,2.7249182635959124
05/02/18		Bishops Teignton		letter		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.55278975892614,-3.5392252565049613
06/02/18		Exeter	15 Maple Rd	letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.71771573522221,-3.5448811601096337
06/02/18	evening	Bristol		letter		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=51.44225868102712,-2.579720414992366
07/02/18	04:00:00	Paddington, London		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=51.51707727182175,-0.1773844622007727
07/02/18	15:00:00	Calais		letter	yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.95870567325433,1.8530402316761931
10/02/18		to Godewaersvelde	entrain for St. Jean	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.864878402528404,2.904372474962337
10/02/18		march to Irish Farm.		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.86976563120861,2.897548312908921

11/02/18		HQ to Bellevue	front line NW of Passchendaele on Goudberg Spur	2nd Devons diary	11th-14th	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.899011426666014,2.9967820765601845
15/02/18		Brandhoek camp "B"	march to Wieltje, light railway to Haslar siding	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.8567962409305,2.7862421612692763
17/02/18	09:00 – 15:00	Vlamertinghe	bathed	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.853609150067,2.824415201332806
19/02/18	12:30:00	To St Jean	light railway to St Jean	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.864878402528404,2.904372474962337
19/02/18		Bellevue		2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.899011426666014,2.9967820765601845
20/02/18		Bellevue	Gas shelling	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.899011426666014,2.9967820765601845
24/02/18		Brandhoek camp "B"	via Wieltje	2nd Devons diary	25/02/18	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.8567962409305,2.7862421612692763
27/02/18	13:45:00	Bellevue	via Hagle siding	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.899011426666014,2.9967820765601845
04/03/18	00:30:00	Brandhoek camp "B"	by usual route	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=50.8567962409305,2.7862421612692763

09/03/18		Steenvoorde	Lieut.L.N.L. Tindal M.C. and Battn Observers, course of instruction under Bde. I.O.	2nd Devons diary	10/03/18	https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=50.80929555852749,2.58285639 81521655
12/03/18		Setques	entrained Hoputre, detrained Lumbres, and marched to billets Setques			https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=
13/03/18		Setques	Battn observers rejoined from Steenvoorde	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=50.712025741699854,2.1573284 547740648
15/03/18			training and baths	2nd Devons diary	16/03/18	https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=50.712025741699854,2.1573284 547740648
22/03/18		Wizernes	entrained for south	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=50.70559041106458,2.22950170 26550337
23/03/18		Chaulnes	detrained and rushed to front line			https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=49.81876121791564,2.79874328 30962677
23/03/18		Villers-Carbonnel	St Christ Crossing inclusive to the road running E.W. through O.32.a	HQ- 23rdInfBde		https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=49.874247734331576,2.9178344 01516766
24/03/18		Villers-Carbonnel	Repelled repeated attempts by enemy to cross bridge	HQ- 23rdInfBde		https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=49.85245150345962,2.92451213 44763465
25/03/18	20:00:00	Estrees	withdrew to line in front of Estrees	HQ- 23rdInfBde		https://www.google.com/maps/search/? api=1&query=49.87509930800666,2.82811119 33761065

26/03/18		Rosieres	General line formed running N and S of Rosieres	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.81675886112625,2.7069352761191303
27/03/18		Harbonnieres	Counter attack through Harbonnieres. Beat of attack N. of Rosieres	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.84734668087871,2.669102221214164
28/03/18		Caix	CAIX – BEAUCOURT road about 1 mile SW of CAIX	HQ-23rdInfBde		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.80193140377995,2.6195179639609236
28/03/18	dusk	Morueil	in billets	HQ-23rdInfBde		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.772323377828734,2.48317131261736
29/03/18		Jumel	Marched to billets	2nd Devons diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.75841668170127,2.351662610986947
30/03/18		Castel	up east side of river to hold line at Castel			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.79263858345628,2.460790681090993
31/03/18	13:40:00		driven out of Moreuil Wood	8th Division Diary		https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.791794080195096,2.4243439819597485
01/04/18		?	formed line outside wood			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.791794080195096,2.4243439819597485
02/04/18		Dummartin	Dommartin			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.79999241001675,2.3907529205740823

02/04/18	11:00:00	Sains-en-Amienois	embussed			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.81719462909856,2.3196284423651456
02/04/18		Ailly-sur-Somme	debussed			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.92717599500424,2.199645045009313
02/04/18		Breilly	billets		<u>4th</u> + <u>8-9th</u>	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.93393360302396,2.1786331083796617
11/04/18		Warlus	Marched 20 km to Warlus and billeted there for the night			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.92399951105426,1.9454276692601546
12/04/18		Hangest-sur-Somme	bivouaced for the night			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98049581364644,2.0652935470108624
13/04/18		Hangest-sur-Somme	entrained			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.98049581364644,2.0652935470108624
13/04/18		Dreuil-les-Amiens	detrained			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.91444890588195,2.2310616535809396
13/04/18		Saleux	billets			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.860303563993945,2.2390802170254935
14/04/18		Saleux	voluntary church parade at 6.30pm		<u>yes</u>	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.860303563993945,2.2390802170254935

19/04/18		Blangy-Tronville	marched to b-t			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.880093563660125,2.423227062354353
19/04/18		Camon	details remained at Camon			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.88797594815715,2.3437275954814587
20/04/18		Villers-Bretonneux	moved into line, took over defence of VB			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.86799951127753,2.517866736632351
22/04/18		Blangy-Tronville	billets			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.880093563660125,2.423227062354353
23/04/18		Cachy Switch	Back in line SW of VB		yes	https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.86130753511602,2.5024098268218142
24/04/18			German attack			https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=49.86332874664341,2.509677945149143

From these diaries, and [NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY 8TH DIVISION](#) and from the [account of L/cpl Wroots](#), I believe that is most likely that Clifford's final resting place is Adelaide Cemetery on the western outskirts of Villers-Bretonneux.

<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/2701/adelaide-cemetery-villers-bretonneux/>

[35 identified graves of soldiers of the 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. who died at Villers-Bretonneux 24-26th April](#)

<https://www.w1cemeteries.com/adelaide-cemetery.html>

Acknowledgements / Bibliography

I would like to thank Jesse Browne for typing up the original letters, and getting them bound, as without this, they would have been lost.

Many thanks to the family, for their help.

Various sources of information have been used, including:

<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/>

<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/research/census-search-tool/>

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

<https://www.freecen.org.uk/>

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

[british-army-medal-index-cards-1914-1920](#)

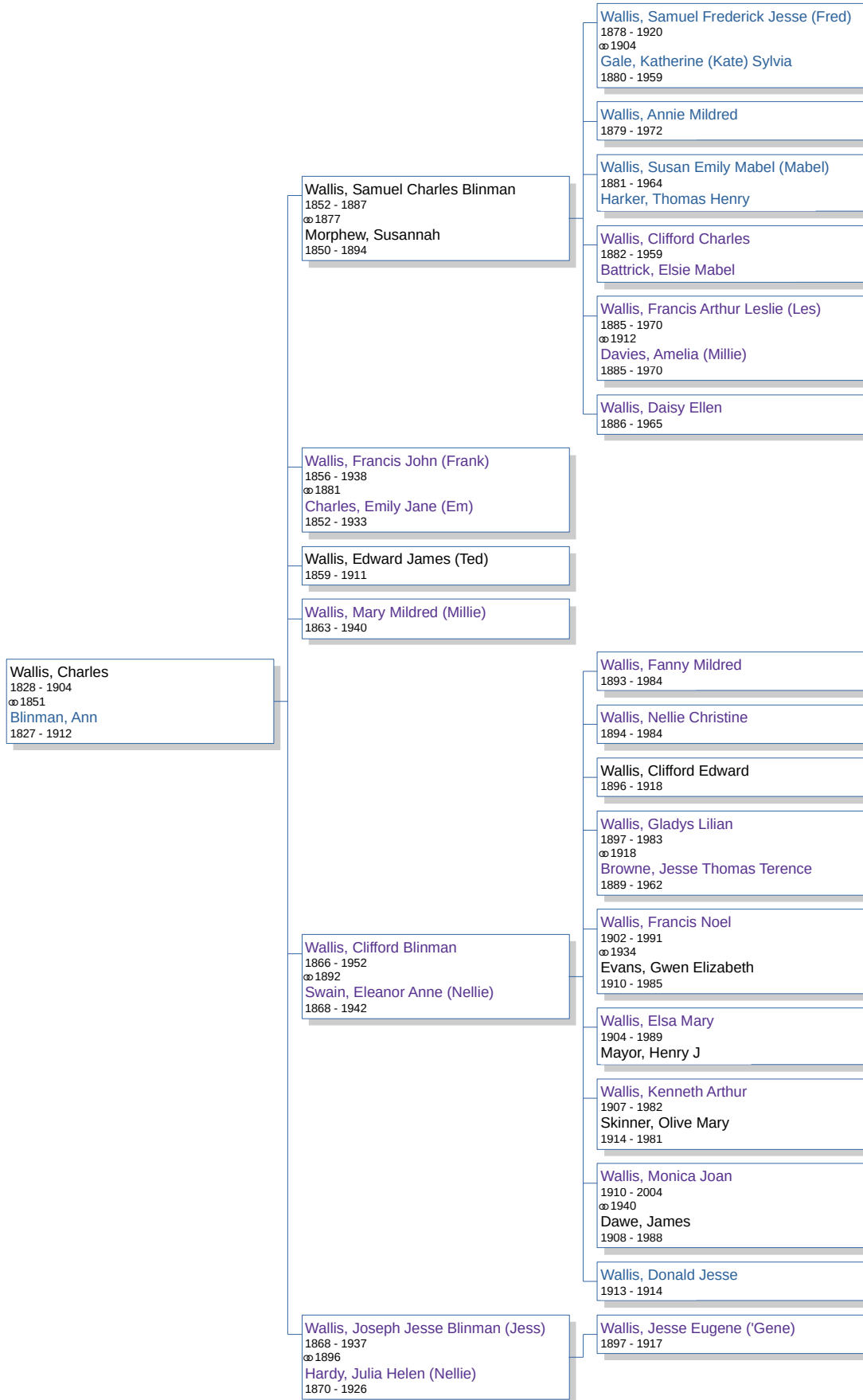
<https://www.cwgc.org/>

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/devonshire-regiment/>

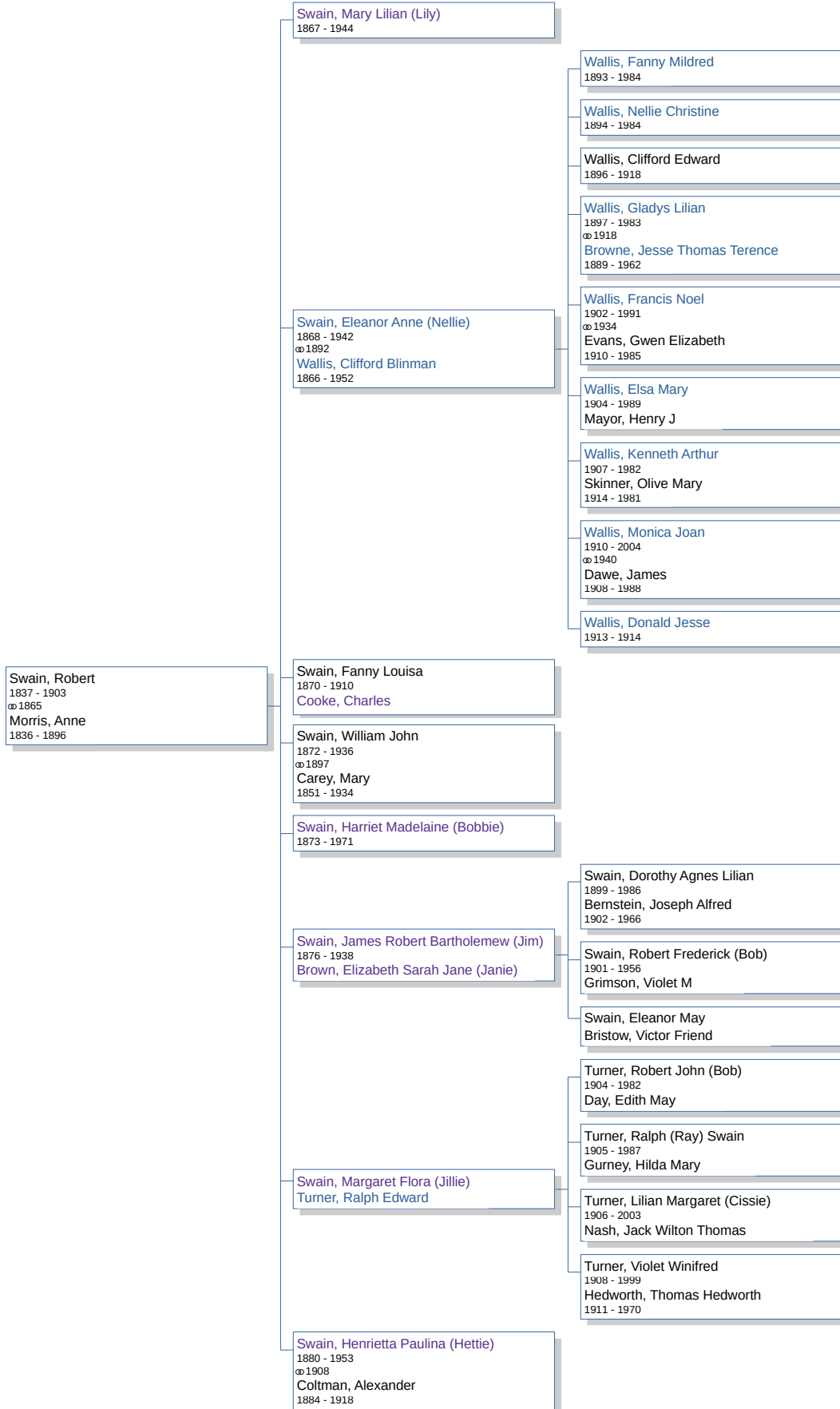
<https://maps.nls.uk/ww1/trenches/>



Family Tree for Charles Wallis & Ann Blinman



Family Tree for Robert Swain & Anne Morris



List of Names

Below is a list of people and businesses mentioned in the above letters. Where possible these have been identified using a combination of census records, birth, marriage and death records, military service records, directories, ancestry public member trees, and internet searches (see [above](#)). This research has highlighted possible mistakes in the original transcription, such as substituting J for G [20]&[78], T for L [209], or E for C [235] in initials. There are also irregularities in spellings such as Lawry / Lawrey [51] and Grove / Groves [37]. Unfortunately these cannot be checked, as the originals are lost, so some doubt remains around certain identifications. Only first mentions are linked to the list below, from superscript numbers in the text. Other instances can be found by using the search function on your PDF viewer.

People mentioned can be mostly divided into four categories:

- i) Family
- ii) Family friends
- iii) Residents or ex-residents of Bishopsteignton
- iv) Serving military

For family members refer to the trees above: [Family Tree for Charles Wallis & Ann Blinman](#) and [Family Tree for Robert Swain & Anne Morris](#)

Whilst I have endeavoured to be as accurate as possible, there will inevitably be mistakes. Where people are unknown, I have preceded their entries with a '?'. Some are possible or probable identifications. If you have any information on these, or corrections to existing entries, I would be very grateful if you could let me know, so that this document can be updated.

Alistair Wallis

[aljwallis@gmail.com]

- 1 **Mammie** – Eleanor (Nellie) Ann Wallis (née Swain) (12/10/1868-1942). She was the daughter of Robert Swain, Clerk of works at Truro Cathedral and Anne née Morris. She is first recorded in BT in the 1891 census as “School mistress” living at School House with Susie Northcott [165].
- 2 **Mrs White** – Ellen (Nellie) White (née Williams) (b.~1881). Wife of Mr (Norman) White [23]. She was born in Marystow, the daughter of James [104] (retired schoolmaster) and Mary Elizabeth Williams [180]. She is Mrs Risdon’s [21] younger sister. She lived at 15 Maple Rd. in Exeter, and worked at Knapman’s [101] as a draper. [[Mrs White’s letter](#)]
- 3 **Daddie** – Clifford Blinman Wallis (1866-1952). Clifford’s father was born in Dorset, and moved to Bishop’s Teignton as school master. He is first recorded in BT in the 1891 census as living with George Stamp “Florist and nurseryman” and his wife in Fore St.
<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/research/bishopsteignton-primary-school/>
- 4 **Hele & Co** (also known as Hele & Sons) were the main organ builders in the south west of England from 1865 to 2007. The company was founded by George Hele (1836-1919). Based in Plymouth from 1870 they built organs for many local churches.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hele_%26_Co
- 5 **Francie** – Francis Noel Wallis (1902-1991). Clifford’s brother.
- 6 **Christine** – Nellie Christine Wallis (19/06/1894-1984). Clifford’s sister. She is recorded in the 1939 register as “Photographer’s Assistant”.
- 7 **Mr Perrett** – David Gazard Perrett (15/10/1869-1952). He was a gardener in BT, and father of William Gazard Perrett [78].
- 8 **Teenie** – Christine see above [6]
- 9 **Murlie** – Elsa Mary Wallis (1904-1989). Clifford’s sister.
- 10 **Jesse** – Jesse Thomas Terence Browne (1889-1962). Clifford’s brother-in-law to be. He married Clifford’s sister Gladys [12] in 1918. He was born in Tunbridge wells to Emma Crowhurst Browne (née Payne) [132] and Jesse William Browne. He was a private in the Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 79348) and served as an orderly in the French Red Cross. [[Jesse’s letter](#)] [Photo of Jesse](#)
- 11 **Philip** – Philip Coombe (1891-1970) was a sergeant in the 20th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force. [[Phillip Coombe’s letter](#)]
<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/philip-coombe/>
- 12 **Gladys** – Gladys Lilian Wallis (1897-1983). Clifford’s sister. She married Jesse [10] in November 1918 “...Owing to the recent deaths in action in France of brothers both of the bride and bridegroom, the ceremony was very quiet...” The Western Times. Friday November 15, 1918. see also [132]
- 13 **Willie Discombe** – William Hayden Discombe (14/08/1891-1983). Recorded as a farm labourer in the 1911 census, and farmer (general) in the 1939 register.
- 14 **Rolley** – Frederick George B Rollin (23/05/1894-1961). In the 1939 register, he is recorded as living with his wife Louisa M G Rollin (née Hill) at “Eversley” BT, a “Licensed Victualler Retired”. [[F. Rollin’s letter](#)]
- 15 **Joey** - ?
- 16 **Mr. Comyns** – Rev. George Yonge Comyns (1842-1925). He is first recorded as living at Wood, BT in the 1901 census as a “Clergyman Church of England”. In the 1914 Kelly’s Directory, he is resident at the Vicarage, and vicar of both Luton and BT. He married Alethea Hext, and had three children. He officiated at the wedding of Jesse Browne [10] and Gladys Wallis [12].
- 17 **Fannie** – Fannie Mildred Wallis (1893-1984). Clifford’s eldest sister.
- 18 **Kennie** – Kenneth Arthur Wallis (22/04/1907-1982). Clifford’s brother.
- 19 **Joan** – Monica Joan Wallis (1910-). Clifford’s youngest sister.

- 20 **Bertie Cole** – Bertram George Cole (27/10/1893-1976). Recorded in the 1911 census as a “Printer Apprentice”. He served as a private in the 6th Batt. Somerset Light Infantry (Regtl. No. 209577). In his letter his name is mistyped as B.J.Cole. [[B.J.Cole's letter](#)]
- 21 **Mrs Risdon** – Mary Jane Risdon (née Williams) (1872-1956). She married William Risdon in 1903 in Launceston, and worked at her husbands family restaurant in Plymouth. She is Mrs White's [2] older sister. She is recorded as “Restaurant, assistant” in the 1911 census. See [26-30] [[Mrs Risdon's letter](#)]
- 22 **Arthur** – Arthur Robert Finch (28/09/1896-1953). Clifford's friend. He is recorded in the 1911 census as living with his father Walter Dunstan Finch (b.1855) the “Headmaster of School of Art”, mother Honora Jane Finch [82], and brother and sister at Brookdale, Haldry Avenue, Teignmouth. He served in the R.N.A.S. (Service No. F21793). It appears he lied about his age, as from his service records, he is recorded as born in 1894. He married Norah Miles in 1923 in Saltash, where he is recorded in the 1939 register as a “Manager Motor Engineer”. See also [218] [[Arthur Finch's letter](#)]
- 23 **Mr White** – Albert “Norman” White. (1884-01/12/1917). Born in Okehampton to Thomas and Mary, Norman had two siblings in the 1891 census, Ellen and Leonard. He married Ellen Williams [2] in Barnstaple in 1910. He is recorded in the 1911 census as an “Organ Builder” living with his wife and niece Dorothy Batten (b.~1905) in Exeter. He was a sapper in the 78th Field Coy. Royal Engineers (Service. No. 165063). He is buried at Dozingheim Cemetery near Poperinge.
- 24 **Willey's** – Willey's Foundry on Water Lane Exeter, founded by Henry Frederick Willey in the 1860's. <http://www.exetermemories.co.uk/em/willeys.php>
- 25 **Beatie Burlie / Burley** – Beatrice May Burley (10/01/1896-1975). She is recorded as an “Apprentice draper” in the 1911 census living in BT with her father James Burley the blacksmith, step-mother Ann, and half-brother Harry. She worked for a time at Knapman's [101] in Exeter.
- 26 **Togo** – William Edward Risdon (1904-1979). Son of William [28] and Mary Risdon [21].
- 27 **Uncle Fred (Togo's)** – Frederick John Risdon (12/3/1874-1951). Recorded in the 1911 Census as a “Restaurant keeper” at 32 Alexandra Rd Plymouth.
- 28 **Mr Risdon** – William Risdon (13/7/1872-16/5/1940). Togo's [26] father. In 1891 he is recorded as a “Watchmaker Appren.”, and in 1901 a “watchmaker shopkeeper” living with is brother Frederick at 33 George St. Plymouth. He is again recorded in the 1939 register as a “Watchmaker (retired)” living at 32 Alexandra Rd Plymouth with his sister Florence [29] and brother Frederick [27].
- 29 **Auntie Florrie (Togo's)** – Florence Mary Risdon (11/3/1879-1954). Recorded in the 1911 census as “Assistant, restaurant”.
- 30 **old Mrs Risdon** – Grace Risdon (née Doidge) (1846-1923). Widow of Joseph Risdon. In the 1911 census “Retired Restaurant Keeper”
- 31 **George Smith** – George Henry Smith (b.~1892). Recorded as a gardener in the 1911 census living at Belle Vue, BT. With his sisters Mary Catherine Smith, and Elizabeth Ann Pook [46].
- 32 **Uncle Jim** – James Robert Bartholemew Swain (1876-1938). Clifford's maternal uncle was a private in the Somerset Light Infantry (1st Garrison Battalion) (Regtl. No. 34621). See also [110] & [111]. [[Uncle Jim's letter](#)]
- 33 **Organist of Ashwater and his wife / Mr May**– Levi May (11/01/1876-1959). He married Mary Helena Hill in 1900, and is recorded in the 1911 census as living in Ashwater with her and their son Ronald Thomas Henry May (b.~1909). He enlisted in the Devonshire Regt. as a private (Regtl. No. 36457)
- 34 **Mr Treneer** – Howard Treneer (03/12/1882-1969). He is described in the 1911 census as an “Assistant schoolmaster” at St. Davids, living with his wife [83] and in-laws at 33 Richmond Rd, Exeter. In 1916 he is recorded at 38 Haldon Rd, Exeter. [[H.&M.Treneer's letter](#)]
- 35 **old Tommie** - ? works at Willey's and Co. ?
- 36 **“Nibbie”** - ? Probably a draughtsman at Willey's & Co. Exeter.

- 37 **Mr Grove** – Frederick Groves (1854-1924). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “photographic artist” living at Sunnymount, Glendaragh Rd, Teignmouth with his wife and children. [[F. Groves' letter](#)]
- 38 **Old “Fire Works”** – Sgt. Major at Granby barracks Devonport. Possibly Edmund Heather Bullock (b.9/10/1875). He was C.S.M. 1/4th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No.2200537). His son Edmund Thomas Bullock died in WWII (18/09/1942) aboard the submarine Talisman.
- 39 **Sgt. Cooper** – ?
- 40 **Mark Knight** – Mark Knight (06/06/1896-1983). Recorded in the 1911 census as a “Stableman” at Venn Cottage BT. He served as a private in the 2nd and 8th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 15137).
- 41 **Mr Moreton** – George “Harry” Moreton , Mus Doc, FRCO, Hon RAM. (17/8/1864-1961). He was a renowned organist at St. Andrews, Plymouth.
https://www.plymouthorganists.org.uk/news_notes/2001-2_harry_moreton.pdf
- 42 **Harry Skinner** – Henry Parnell Skinner (1887-1966). Recorded in the 1911 census as a “Gardener (Domestic)” living on Radway St. BT. He served as a private in the 10th service Batt. Devonshire Regt. in Salonica. (Regtl. No. 25926). “Z” Res. 14/03/19.
- 43 **Auntie Millie** – Mary Mildred Wallis (1863-1940) Clifford’s paternal aunt, lived at 4 Eaton Crescent, Clifton, Bristol. [[Auntie Millie's letter](#)]
- 44 **Annie** – Annie Mildred Wallis (19/07/1879-1972). Clifford’s cousin, recorded as a “Dressmaker” in the 1911 census, she lived at 4 Steven’s Crescent, Totterdown, Bristol.
- 45 **Daisy** – Daisy Ellen Wallis (1886-1965). Clifford’s cousin, recorded as a “School Teacher (Elem) in the 1911 census; she taught at St. Nicholas’ Boys’ school. She lived at 4 Steven’s Crescent, Totterdown, Bristol. [[Daisy's letter](#)]
- 46 **Mrs Pook** – Elizabeth Ann Pook (07/01/1877-1969). She is recorded as a “Schoolmistress” living at Belle Vue in BT in the 1911 census, married to David John Pook.
- 47 **Auntie Bobbie** – Harriet Madeleine (Bobbie) Swain (25/11/1873-11/12/1971) was Clifford’s maternal aunt. Her letter is addressed from The Parsonage, Oulton, Leeds. This is the address of Walter Robert Capel Cure. His wife, Mary Lorenza Capel Cure (née Dauglish) is the sister of John Dauglish [211] [[Auntie Bobbie's letter](#)]
- 48 **Mr Harris “Reader”** – Frederick George Harris (1848-1917). Recorded in the 1911 census as “Lay Reader” living at the Cottage, Murley Grange, BT, with his wife [231] and son, George Herbert Harris (b.1885).
- 49 **Cecil Weston** – Cecil James Weston (06/10/1898-1974). Recorded in the 1911 census as living at the Triangle, BT. He served as a private in the 1st Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 68426). “Z” Res. 12/03/19
- 50 **Mayoress of Exeter** – Janie Kirk Owen (née Gibson) (1866-1943). She is the wife of James George Owen, newspaper proprietor and Mayor of Exeter. [[Card from Mayoress](#)]
- 51 **Mr Lawrey / Lawry** – William C. Lawry. There are two William Lawry’s recorded from medal card records (they may of course be the same person) W. C. Lawry was a private in the Army Service Corps (Regtl. No. M/316830). W. G. Lawry was in the Church Army.
- 52 **Norman** – Norman Francis E Knapp (1896-1965). His birth is registered in Newton Abbot. He married Winifred C. Attwood in 1934 in Stepney, and died in 1965 in Ashford. [[Norman Knapp's letter](#)]
- 53 **Mrs Knapp** – Margaret Gertrude H Knapp (1868-1949). Norman Knapp’s mother. She is recorded in the 1911 census as living with her husband William George Knapp (a “Blacksmith”), and her son Norman [52], at 26 Salisbury Terrace, Teignmouth. [[Gertrude Knapp's letter](#)]
- 54 **Staddon** – possibly George Staddon (1894-1942). Recorded in the 1901 census as living at 6 Orchard Terrace, BT.

55 **Arthur Sidey** - ?

56 **Charlie Bulley** – possibly Charles Frances Bulley (b.~1885). Recorded in the 1891 census as a “Scholar” living with his father and mother, John and Maria, and brothers, Frederick, Henry, and Stanley [185] at Radway Hill, BT. [[Charlie Bulley's letter](#)]

57 **Louie** – possibly Louisa Eliza Pook (1886-1927).

58 **Mr Butland** – Thomas Butland (b.~1839) married Maria Matilda Allen in 1862. She died in 1917 at the age of 77. He is recorded in the 1891 census as “School Master & Organist” living at “School House” Kingsteignton. [[Mr Butland's letter](#)]

59 **Uncle Jess** – Joseph Jesse Blinman Wallis (1868-1937). Clifford's paternal uncle. He lived in Alwalton, Peterborough with his wife Julia Helen [67], and son Jesse Eugene [66]. [[Nell and Jess's letter](#)]

60 **Old Joey** - ?

61 **Honeywell** – William Henry Honeywill (b.~1884). His wife, Florence Grace née Manley is George Henley's wife's sister (see [62]). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “labourer in French garden”, living with his wife and son William, at The Cross, Ipplepen. He served as a private in the 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 44214)

62 **George Henley** – George Henry S Henley (27/07/1883-1955). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Carpenter” living on Clanage St. BT. with his wife Mary Jane née Manley

63 **Lily Major** – Lily Louise Major (1886-1967). Recorded as a “Housemaid” living at Keittos BT. In the 1901 census, she married Frederick Leach in 1913.

Lily Major's husband – Frederick Evelyn Leach (1881-1950). He served as a private in the 9th and 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 26522). Dis.392 xvi. 13/06/18 [[F. Leach's letter](#)]

64 **Cliff:** - Clifford Charles Wallis (1882-1956). Clifford's cousin. He married Elsie Mabel Battrick [124] in 1913 in Bristol. He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Clerk”. He is listed as a private in the Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 58373), before being transferred to the Labour Corp (Regtl. No. 102448). He is in France in 1918. [[Cliff's letter](#)]

65 **Mr Carpenter** – Charles Frederick Carpenter (1843-1925). He is recorded in the 1911 census as “Proprietor of hydropathic establishment”, living at Huntly BT.

<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/places/huntly-hydro-and-health-spa/>

66 **'Gene** – Jesse Eugene Wallis (1897-28/03/1917). Clifford's cousin, he was the son of Joseph Jesse Blinman Wallis [59], and Julia Helen Wallis [67]. He enlisted as a private in the London Scottish Regt. (Regtl. No. 6601), and was killed in action in France. He is buried at Agny. See also [Photo of 'Gene](#)

67 **Auntie Nellie** – Julia Helen (Nellie) Wallis (née Hardy) (d.1926). Clifford's aunt by marriage to Joseph Jesse Blinman Wallis [67].

68 **Tom Martin** – Thomas Martin (25/05/1878-). Recorded in the 1911 census as a “Gardener (jobbing)”, living at River Cottages BT. He is the father of William Thomas Martin.

69 **Mr Parish** – George Frederick Parish (1878-09/05/1917). Born in Colebrook, he married Kate Susan Marks [260] in 1901. They had one child, Frederick George, born in 1905. He enlisted as a private in the 8th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 24627). He died in France on the 9th of May 1917, and is remembered at Arras. <https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/george-frederick-parish-ww1/>

70 **Finemore** – Ellen Hunking Finimore (17/04/1893-1985). Born in Week St. Mary Cornwall, to Thomas and Jane Finimore, Ellen moved to BT where she worked at Humber. She later married Nicholas James Treise [71] in 1920. She had three brothers old enough to go to war, Thomas Edgar (b.1891), Jonathan Wilfred (b.1896), and Charles Albert (b.1898). From his service records, Jonathan was in India serving as a driver in the Royal Field Artillery at this time. So it was either Thomas or Charles who shared a ward with Clifford.

- 71 **Mr Trees** – Both John Treise (b.1879), and Nicholas Treise (b.1884) are recorded in the 1911 census as farmers at Higher Humber.
- 72 **Fred Soper** – Frederick W. J. Soper (20/07/1894-1952). Recorded in the 1911 census as a “farm labourer” living at Higher Coombe, Teignmouth. He served as a private in the 4th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 203315), 11th and 9th Batts. Leicestershire Regt. (Regtl. No. 235192), and 9th Batt. Norfolk Regt. (Regtl. No. 41367).
- 73 **Loveridge** – Thomas Lambell Loveridge (1890-1932). His parents, Frank Loveridge (Army sgt. instructor) & Elizabeth Ann Gale, married in 1886. They are recorded in the 1891 census as living in Clifford St, Chudleigh. He is recorded as Acting Corporal / Second Lieutenant in the 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 25078) Dis. to com. 02/03/19
- 74 **Jim Fey** – James John Fey (1864-1951). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Carpenter” living at Delamore Cottages BT. He married Florence Gale (Elizabeth Ann Gale's sister), thus making him Loveridge's [73] uncle through marriage.
- 75 **Tom Kidston** – Thomas James Kidston (28/03/1876-26/07/1917). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Ld Stoker Royal Navy” living at The Triangle, Clanage St, BT. Thomas Kidston perished when his ship, HMS Ariadne was sunk off Beachy Head by a German submarine. (Royal Navy No. 280054).
<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/thomas-james-kidston-ww1/>
- 76 **Fred Burgess** – H. G. (Fred) Burgess (1898-11/08/1917). He is recorded as an “Apprentice - Baker's”, living at The Triangle, Fore St, BT in the 1911 census. He enlisted is a private in the 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 3/7063). He died in France of wounds on the 11th of August 1917. He is buried at Mont Huon Military Cemetery.
<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/h-g-fred-burgess-ww1/>
- 77 **Willett** – ? went to St. Nicholas' Boys' School in Bristol, and was in Daisy's class.
- 78 **W. Perrett** – William Gazard Perrett (1898-07/04/1968). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living at 1 Orchard Terrace, BT. He was a private in the Coldstream Guards (Regtl. No. 19904).
[\[W. J. Perrett's letter\]](#) ('J' must be typo)
- 79 **Auntie May** - ? [\[Auntie May's letter\]](#)
- 80 **Sidney Fey** – Sidney Charles Fey (b.1901). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living at The Triangle, Fore St, BT. He joined the RFC/RAF in 1918 (No. 3311743).
- 81 **Whiteway** – Reginald Edmund Churchill Whiteway (1887-1951). Born in Teignmouth, he served in the Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 23713), and then the Labour Corps (Regtl. No. 683956). From his service records, he was initially in the 3rd Batt., but then transferred to the 2nd Batt. from 26/09/16, until 23/07/18, when he returned to the 3rd Batt, before being transferred to the Labour Corps as a private from 02/11/18. He is recorded as a hairdresser, living with his wife, Annie Maud née Yandell, living at 13 Linden Terrace, Newton Abbot. He suffered a gunshot wound to the right thigh.
- 82 **Mrs Finch** – Honora Jane Finch (née Collins) (16/09/1865-23/01/1947). Arthur Finch's mother. [22]. She died in Toronto Canada having lived there since c.1922. [\[Mrs Finch's letter\]](#)
- 83 **Mrs Treneer** – Mary Treneer (née Bickell) (1882-1969). Howard Treneer's [34] wife. Together they had one son, Cyril, born in 1914.
- 84 **E. Gullick** – Thomas Ernest Gullick (1891-1931). He lived in Teignmouth. Brook St. Hill (next door to “Prince of Wales”). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a Private in the 1st Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 8988) at Lucknow barracks, Tidworth. He enlisted on the 17th April 1909, and was discharged wounded on the 30th October 1918. [\[E.Gullick's letter\]](#)
- 85 **Mr Wheaton** – Harold Wheaton (b. ~1891). He is recorded in the 1911 census as an “assistant Bookselling and stationery” living with his family at 1 Mont Le Grand, Heavitree, Exeter. His father, Alfred, is recorded as “Bookseller Stationer Printer”. Together the family run Wheaton & Co.
<http://www.exetermemories.co.uk/em/wheatons.php> at 185 Fore Street, Exeter. Harold served as a corporal in the 2nd and 9th Batts. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No.33130). Disemb. 15.3.19

- 86 **P.B. Boot Company** – The Public Benefit Boot Company had two branches in Teignmouth, 1 and 8 Wellington St. Teignmouth, between 1911 and 1929. The managers in 1911 were Francis Vick, and James Mitchelmore, neither of whom appear to have served in the Devons. <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~publicbenefit/index.html>
- 87 **Percy Fey** – Frederick “Percival” Fey (b.1895). He is recorded as a “Stable Boy” in the 1911 census. He is Sidney Fey’s brother.
- 88 **Uncle Frank** – Francis John Wallis (1856-1938). Clifford’s paternal uncle; he is recorded as a “Grocer Assistant” in Bristol in the 1901 census. [[Frank & Em’s letter](#)]
- 89 **Auntie Emily** – Emily (Em) Jane Wallis (née Charles) (1852-1933). Clifford’s aunt through marriage.
- 90 **Leslie** – Francis Arthur Leslie (Les) Wallis (1885-1970). Clifford’s cousin; he married Amelia (Millie) Davis in 1912. [[Les & Millie’s letter](#)]
- 91 **Millie** – Amelia (Millie) Wallis (née Davis) (28/01/1885-1970). Clifford’s cousin Leslie’s [90] wife.
- 92 **Arthur** – Arthur Edward Wallis (1914-). Arthur was Leslie and Millie’s eldest child. Possibly also Clifford’s godson.
- 93 **Mr Hawker’s mother** – Margaret Hawker (née Nagle) (01/01/1851-17/02/1918) Harry W. Hawker’s [150] mother.
- 94 **Peter** – Daniel “Peter” Coombe (b.1887). Peter Coombe was born in Dawlish, and is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Draper’s apprentice”. He emigrated to Canada. [[Peter Coombe’s letter](#)]
- 95 **Willie Martin** – William Albert Martin (b. 12/02/1884). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Gardener (domestic)”, living at the Lodge, Murley Grange, BT. He enlisted in Newton Abbot on the 5th June 1916 whilst living in Fore St. BT with his wife, Alice, and daughter Lydia. He served in both the Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 36493) and Labour Corps (Regtl. No. 91982). [[W. A. Martin’s letter](#)]
- 96 **Mr Willcocks** - ?
- 97 **Auntie Hettie** – Henrietta (Hettie) Paulina Coltman (née Swain) (1880-1953). Clifford’s maternal aunt; she was living in BT at the time of the 1901 census, at the School House, and recorded as a “Milliner’s Assistant”. [[Hettie’s letter](#)]
- 98 **Charlie Apps** – Charles Apps (b.~1872). He served in the R.A.M.C - 19th Field Ambulance (Regtl. No. 22280) [[C. Apps’ letter](#)]
- 99 **Mr Leach** – see [63]
- 100 **L/c Draper** – Frederick James Draper was a Lance Corporal in the 8th and 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 24232). Disch. 392 xvi. 20/01/19
- 101 **Knapman’s** – Where Nellie White [2], and Beattie Burley [25] worked, was a Draper’s on 206,207 High St. Exeter. <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/9cb8d505-e5bc-48a7-b209-1a16d205ad0c>
- 102 **Lillie** – B. Burley’s [25] friend.
- 103 **Vick** - ?
- 104 **Mr Williams** – James Williams (b.1836) Mrs White’s [2] and Mrs Risdon’s [21] father – born in St. Ewe Cornwall. He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Retired schoolmaster”, living with his wife Mary Elizabeth [180], and son Edward, in South View, Landkey, Barnstaple.

- 105 **Jack Bridgeman** – Edward John Bridgman [no 'e'] (29/04/1897-21/05/1974) was born in Broadwoodwidge. He is recorded in the 1901 census as living with his father (a "Farmer"), mother, 2 sisters and 5 brothers. He joined the Royal North Devon Hussars as a private (Regtl. No. 2561), and then the 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. His younger brother Walter Hampton Bridgman was also in the 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 205160). He was a Lance Serjeant, and died on the 27th May 1918. He is remembered on the same panel as Cpl. Goldsmith (see below [106]) at Soisson memorial. [[L.cpl Bridgeman's letter](#)] . See also photos of [E.J.Bridgman](#) & [Bridgman brothers](#)
- 106 **F. Goldsmith Cpl.** – Frederick Goldsmith. (1883-26/05/1918). A Corporal in the 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 27662). It appears he was promoted to Lance Serjeant prior to his death, and is recorded as presumed dead (31/05/1918). He is remembered at Soisson memorial. His widow is recorded in the WWI Pension Record Cards and Ledgers, as Alice Emma Goldsmith (née King) (09/03/1881-1979) living in Brighton, Sussex. They married in Steyning in 1915. [[Cpl. Goldsmith's letter](#)]
- 107 **Gregory Bateman** – Rev. Gregory Bateman (1884-1964) was a Capt. Rev. in the Royal Army Chaplains Department. [[Gregory Bateman's letter](#)]
- 108 **Miss Errington** – Sophia Helen Errington (~1849-1929). The daughter of Lt. General Arnold Charles Errington, in the 1901 census she is recorded as lodging at 14 Oakfield Rd, Clifton, and Mary M. Wallis (Millie) [43] is recorded as her "Ladies Maid". In 1911 she is recorded at 4, Eaton Crescent, Clifton, where she died in 1929.
- 109 **Emily** – Emily Jane Parker (b.~1877). She is also recorded at 4, Eaton Crescent, Clifton in the 1921 census. See also [43] [108]
- 110 **Bob** – Robert Frederick Swain (26/02/1901-1956) – Jim's [32] and Janie's [111] son.
- 111 **Janie** – Elizabeth Sarah Jane (Janie) Swain (née Brown) (b.1873). Clifford's uncle Jim's [32] wife; she lived at 27 Broughton Rd, Ealing. [[Janie's letter](#)]
- 112 **Cello** – possibly Ursula Mary Capel Cure. The daughter of Walter and Mary Capel Cure. See [47]
- 113 **Ralph** – Ralph Edward Turner (b.1876). Born in Putley Herefordshire, he married Jillie [116] in 1903 in Ledbury, Herefordshire.
- 114 **eldest boy** – Robert John Turner (1904-1982). Jillie [116] and Ralph Turner's [113] eldest son
- 115 **Ray** – Ralph Swain Turner (1905-1987). Jillie [116] and Ralph Turner's [113] youngest son.
- 116 **Jillie** – Margaret Flora (Jillie) Turner (née Swain) (b.1878). Clifford's maternal aunt; she lived at The Yew Tree, Dymock, Gloucester. [[Jillie's letter](#)]
- 117 **Lily** – Mary "Lily" Swain (1867-1944). Clifford's maternal aunt; she lived at Woolstaston Rectory, Lebotwood, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. [[Lily's letter](#)]
- 118 **Charlie** – Charles Cooke (b.1860). He married Fanny Louisa Swain (1870-1910) in 1895, thus making him Eleanor Ann Wallis' brother in law. He is recorded in the 1911 census as a "Cashier" at the fire-clay and stone-ware works, living at 6 Bexley Villa, Woodville, Burton-on-Trent. [[Charlie's letter](#)]
- 119 **Arthur** – Arthur John Trinder (7/6/1867-1957) Eleanor Ann Wallis' cousin, though her paternal aunt Harriet. He is recorded in the 1911 census as a "Cutliner & draughtsman's assistant Glass Painters" living at 6 Rathcoole Ave. Hornsey with his mother Harriet. [[Arthur's letter](#)]
- 120 **Grannie** – Ann Wallis (née Blinman) (1827-1912).
- 121 **Tom** – Thomas Henry Harker (1870-1947). See below [122]
- 122 **Mabel** – Susan Emily "Mabel" Harker (née Wallis) (07/05/1881-1964). Clifford's cousin, she married Thomas Henry Harker in 1915, and moved to Henley-on-Thames. [[Mabel's letter](#)]

- 123 **Kate and Fred** - Katherine (Kate) Sylvia Wallis (née Gale) (b.1880). Clifford's cousin.
Fred – Samuel Frederick Jesse Wallis (1878-1920). Clifford's cousin. He married Katherine Gale in 1904. He is recorded in the 1911 census as a "Shipbrokers clerk" living with his wife and daughters, Mildred, Marguerite, and Eugenie at Sharpness, Gloucestershire. [[Kate & Fred's letter](#)]
- 124 **Elsie** – Elsie Mabel Wallis (née Battrick) (b.27/11/1886). She married Clifford Charles Wallis [64] in Bristol in 1913. [[Elsie's letter](#)]
- 125 **E. Bolt** – ? possibly Emma Dart Bolt (née Hayman) (~1865-1928). Born in Totnes, she is the wife of William Henry Bolt, "Watch & Clock & Jewellery repairer, optician & engraver" from Dawlish. In the 1911 census, they are living in Weymouth. [[E.Bolt's letter](#)]
- 126 **Youngest** – Kenneth Wilfrid Brown (14/02/1899-06/04/1975). He served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the East Lancashire Regt., entering France in March 1918.
- 127 **Second boy** – Douglas Fredrick Brown (25/05/1897-26/06/1982). He enlisted as a private in the London Regt. 28th Artists Rifles (Regtl. No. 760572), and served in France from 4.11.16, but was invalided to England on the 9.11.17.
- 128 **Eldest** – Clifford John Brown (06/05/1895-02/07/1971). He is recorded in the 1939 Register as a "Civil Servant" living in Southend on sea with his wife and daughter.
- 129 **Jack** – John Brown (b. ~1866) he is recorded in the 1911 census as a "Head Teacher" living with his wife Jessie, and three sons, [126], [127], & [128] , at Elstow, Torr, Yealmpton. [[Jack's letter](#)]
- 130 **S. R. Brown** - Samuel Roland Brown (1862-). He is recorded in the 1911 census a "Carpenter / Organ Builder", living with his wife and son in Exeter. [[S.R.Brown's letter](#)]
- 131 **W. Bevil Browne** – Rev. William Bevil Browne (1845-1929). A widower, he is described in the 1911 census as a "Clerk in holy orders (Church of England) living at Ness Cottage, Shaldon. [[W.Bevil Browne's letter](#)]
- 132 **E. Browne** – Emma Crowhurst Browne (née Payne) (1866-1944). Jesse Thomas Terence Browne's [10] mother, and wife of Jesse William Browne. Living at 9 Avon St, Tunbridge Wells. They had five sons and two daughters. Lance Corporal Robert Walter Brown (1897-1917) of the 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regt. (Service No. L/11051) died on the 31st of July 1917, and is buried at Buffs Rd Cemetery. [[E.Browne's letter](#)]
- 133 **W. H. Cockram** – William Cockram (b.10/04/1877). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a schoolboy living at Humber Cottage BT. From his letter, he appears to have joined the Royal Navy, serving on HMS Glorious. [[W.H.Cockram's letter](#)]
- 134 **Paul Coombe's wife** – Christabel Cutts (1891-1988). They married between Jan-Mar 1918 in Glanford Brigg, Lincs.
- 135 **Paul Coombe** – Paul Coombe (b.1890). Philip Coombe's brother. Recorded as living at Clanage St, BT in the 1901 census. His letter is written from his wife's family home. [[Paul Coombe's letter](#)]
- 136 **Lois** – Lois Mary Coombe (b.1896). Philip Coombe's sister. Recorded as living at Clanage St, BT in the 1901 census.
- 137 **Alice Coombe** – Alice Coombe (b.1893). Philip Coombe's sister. Recorded as living at Clanage St, BT in the 1901 census. [[Alice Coombe's letter](#)]
- 138 **Matthew S. Cox** – Matthew Stephen Cox (1861-1933). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a "Head Teacher", living with his wife Amelia Elizabeth Cox (née Ballamy) (1865-1940), and his father in law Simon Ballamy, at Ford St, Moretonhampsted. [[Matthew Cox's letter](#)]
- 139 **Helen Eddis** – Helen Florence Eddis (née Ogle) (b.1887). The daughter of Arthur Joseph Saville Ogle [219] and Helen [166]. Recorded as living at The Vicarage, BT in the 1911 census. She married Bruce Lindsay Eddis of the Royal Engineers in BT in 1912 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Eddis]. "*The happy couple left the church to the strains of the Wedding March played by Clifford Wallis Jun.*" The Western Daily Mercury (19/09/1912). She was also Murlie's godmother. [[Helen Eddis' letter](#)]

- 140 **Bob** – Robin England (02/12/1889). The son of William and Alice [141], Robin is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Teacher (Elementary School)”. In the 1939 register he is a “Head Teacher” at The School House, St. Thomas. He possibly served as a Lieutenant in the 1st Batt. Devonshire Regt., entering France on 2.5.17., and living at 25 Brookdale Terrace, Devon.
- 141 **Wm. C. England** – William Charles England (c.1858). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “sub inspector of schools”, living with his wife Alice, and three children at 8 Keyberry Park, Newton Abbot. [[Wm. England's letter](#)]
- 142 **Mr. King** - see [160]
- 143 **A. England** – Albert England (b.~1872). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Schoolmaster (Elem.Sch)” living with his wife Mariam, son and daughter at Sunnybank, Kingskerswell. [[A.England's letter](#)]
- 144 **C. and E. Freestone** – Charles William Freestone (1853-) described in the 1911 census as a “Schoolmaster Pub. El. Sch.”, living with his wife Ellen Naomi Freestone (1851-) at 7 York Terrace, The Hawthorns, Kingsteignton. [[C & E Freestone's letter](#)]
- 145 **Annie L. Green** – Annie Lilian Green (née Carpenter) (b.1870). Charles F. Carpenter’s daughter. Living at The Bungalow, Huntly, BT. [[Annie Green's letter](#)]
- 146 **Wilfred B. Green** – Walford Davis Green (b.1869). Recorded in the 1911 census as a “Barrister at law”; living at The Bungalow Huntly, BT. [[Wilfred Green's letter](#)]
- 147 **Joseph Harris** – Joseph Harris (b.~1872). He is recorded as a grocer living at Post Office St, BT in the 1911 census. [[Joseph & R. Harris' letter](#)]
- 148 **R. Harris** – Rachel A. Harris (b.~1874). She is recorded as living with her husband at Post Office St, BT in the 1911 census.
- 149 **Mrs Hawker** – Alice Hawker (née Hearn) (03/06/1880-1960). She married Harry Hawker [150] in Bideford in 1903.
- 150 **Harry W. Hawker** – Henry William Hawker (28/08/1876-04/11/1947). Born in Ontario Canada, he is recorded as an “Elementary School Master” in the 1911 census, living at School House, Kingsteignton. [[Harry Hawker's – letter](#)]
- 151 **W. and B. Helmore** – William Henry Helmore (1871-1958). Is recorded in the 1911 census as an “Organ Builder” living with his wife Elizabeth Ann (Bessie) in Exeter. [[W. & B. Helmore's letter](#)]
- 152 **Lettie** – Letitia Jane Hodson (20/04/1887-1975). Frances Hodson’s younger sister.
- 153 **Alice** – ?
- 154 **Ethel** – Ethel M Hodson (b.~1889). Frances Hodson’s younger sister, recorded in the 1911 census as a “School Teacher”, living in BT.
- 155 **Frances Hodson** – Frances Sarah Hodson (03/05/1885-1970). The daughter of George and Jane Hodson, she is recorded in the 1901 census as living at Post Office St, BT. [[Frances Hodson's letter](#)]
- 156 **H. and F. Jackman** – Herbert Graham Jackman (b.1875). Recorded as a “Schoolmaster”, living at 7 The Terrace, BT. with his wife Frances Myra Jackman (née Pridham) (b.1877), whom he married Herbert in 1906. [[H. & F. Jackman's letter](#)]
- 157 **R. E. Jago** – Robert Edwin Jago (1858-1941). He is recorded in the 1891 census as an “Elementary Teacher (Certfd)”, living with his wife and children in Blackstone Vill Dryden, Ipplepen. [[R.E.Jago's letter](#)]
- 158 **W.A. Fraser** - ? writing on behalf of Dr Johnson [159]
- 159 **Dr Johnson** – George Herbert Johnson (1859-1918). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Surgeon” living with his daughter and three servants at 7 The Crescent, Teignmouth. [[Dr.Johnson's letter](#)]

- 160 **J. F. King** – James Frederick King (b.~1856). He is recorded in the 1901 census as a “Schoolmaster & organist”, living at 3 Longlands Terrace, Dawlish, with his wife Frances, also a “school teacher”. His son was 2nd Lieutenant Charles Frederick King of the 1st Garission Batt. Devonshire Regt. He died on the 20th of September 1917. He is remembered at Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium. [[J.F.King's letter](#)]
- 161 **Hal and Flo** – ? possibly Albert Edward Knott (b.~1864) and Florence Annie Knott (née Nicholls) (b.~1874). In the 1911 census, he is a “commercial traveller – music publishing”, with his wife and son. He was born in Torquay, and his wife in Lustleigh, Devon. In the 1921 census they are living in Tunbridge Wells. [[Hal & Flo's letter](#)]
- 162 **S. G. Miles** – Sarah Hannah Miles (née Lovie) (b. abt. 1863). The 'G' must be a typo in the original typed up document. The wife of Donald Miles [163] they married in Haverfordwest in 1905. [[S.G.Miles' letter](#)]
- 163 **Donald S. Miles** – Donald Stuart McKay Miles (1860-1924). He was in the Church Army, and is recorded in the 1911 census as an author living with his wife [162] and brother in Pembrokeshire. [[Donald S. Miles' letter](#)]
- 164 **Chas: Mole** – Charles Mole (b.1859). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Certificated Teacher. Head”, living with his wife Mary Mole (née Johns) (b.~1858), and daughter Hilda Mary Mole (b.1888) (a “Certificated Teacher. Assistant”), at Broadhempston, Totnes. [[Chas Mole's letter](#)]
- 165 **Susie Northcott** – Susan Elizabeth Northcott (1869-1942). She is recorded in the 1891 census as a “School Mistress” living at School House, BT with Eleanor Swain [1]. [[Susie Northcott's letter](#)]
- 166 **Helen Ogle** – Helen Ogle (née Phillips) (1857-1937) The wife of the vicar Arthur Joseph Saville Ogle [139]. Recorded as living at The Vicarage, BT in the 1911 census. [[Helen Ogle's letter](#)]
- 167 **Richard Parson** – Richard Parson (b.~1854). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Private Schoolmaster”, living with his wife Alice Matilda Parson (b.~1858), and daughter Daisy Marion Parson (b.~1893) at Thornhill in Teignmouth. [[Richard Parson's letter](#)]
- 168 **John Treharne Phillips** – Rev. John Treharne Phillips (1867-1947). He married Mabel White in 1915, registered in Newton Abbot. [[John Treharne Phillips' letter](#)]
- 169 **J. H. Prince** – The Rev. John Henry Prince M.A. (b.1868). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “clerk in holy orders”, living with his wife and two children at Cowick St. St. Thomas' Vicarage. [[J.H.Prince's letter](#)]
- 170 **Emily Eliz: and Mabel Rodway** – Emily Elizabeth Rodway (née Van Trump) (c.1840-1923). She married Edwin Augustus Rodway in 1865, and was widowed in 1886. Mabel Rodway (b.~1878), Emily Elizabeth's daughter, is recored in the 1911 census as a “Sick Nurse”. They are recorded as living at The Terrace, BT. [[the Rodway's letter](#)]
- 171 **Kathleen** - ?
- 172 **Bertie Rowse** – Beatrice Amelia Rowse (b.~1870). She is recorded in the 1911 census as a “lodging house keeper” with her mother Mary Jane Rowse at 9 Den Crescent, Teignmouth. [[Bertie Rowse's letter](#)]
- 173 **Mrs Wotton** – A. Wotton. see [285]
- 174 **Lottie Savage** – Lottie Adeline Savage (17/3/1885-1965). She is recorded in the 1911 census as living with her husband (a “Railway Clerk”), daughter, mother-in-law, and father-in-law, at 3 Portland Terrace, Dawlish. The same address as Mrs A. Wotton's [285] letter. [[Lottie Savage's letter](#)]
- 175 **I. Spencer** - Isabel Spencer (née Stewart) (1882-) is recorded in the 1911 census as “Asst Teacher Elem School” at Luton, living with her husband Percy (1878-1957) and daughter Marian at School House. Percy is recorded in n the 1911 census as a “Head Teacher Elem School” Luton. They married in 1906 in Watford. [[I.Spencer's letter](#)]
- 176 **Mrs Coysh** – ?

- 177 **E. W. Tucker** – Elizabeth Windeatt Tucker (b.~1850). Born in Totnes, she is recorded at the address in her letter in the 1921 census. She is recorded in the 1891 census as a “ladies maid” living with George and Teresa Rowland [271] [[E.W.Tucker's letter](#)]
- 178 **H. C. Walters** – ? [[H.C.Walters' letter](#)]
- 179 **Florence L White** – Florence Lilian White (06/11/1891-1978) . Norman's sister, lives at The Cleave, Sticklepath, Okehampton. [[Florence White's letter](#)]
- 180 **M. E. Williams** – Mary Elizabeth Williams (née Terry) (1845-1930) Mrs Ellen White's [2] and Mrs Risdon's [21] mother. As recorded in the 1851 census, her father was a professor of music, and her mother was a school mistress. [[M.E.Williams' letter](#)]
- 181 **John Back** – John Henry Back (1898-1977). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living at Radway Hill with his parents, John and Lavinia, and siblings. He married Beatrice Shore towards the end of 1918 in Colchester. [[John Back's letter](#)]
- 182 **J. H. Blatchford** – Joseph Henry Blatchford (1882-1939). In the 1901 census he is recorded with his parents, six brothers and two sisters. He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “French Gardener” living with his parents, three of his brothers, and one sister at 2 Wesley Terrace, Ipplepen. He married Gertrude E. Webber (1893-1982) in 1917 in Crediton. In the 1911 census, she is recorded as a “Scullery maid” working at Huntley's in BT. He served as a private in the Hampshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 36118), and then transferred to the Labour Corps (Regtl. No. 107447). From his letter, it appears that he is in France. His brother Albert (1890-13/05/1915) was a Ldg. Sto. Aboard the H.M.S. “Goliath” K/10989, and was killed in action with a Turkish destroyer in Dardanelles. [[J.H.Blatchford's letter](#)]
- 183 **L/cpl Wroots** – Thomas Wroots (1892-1925). He was with Clifford when he was killed. He was a L/Cpl in the 1st and 2nd Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 20510). Dis. 392 xvi 12.11.18. He married Rose A Smith in 1919 in West Ham, but died at the age of 33. [[L/cpl. T.Wroots' letter](#)]
- 184 **H. Brooks** – ? Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. [[H.Brooks' letter](#)]
- 185 **Stanley Bulley** – Stanley Bulley (1890). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a carpenter living at Radway Court, BT, with his mother and brother Frederick. In the 1891 census he is at Radway Hill with his mother and father and three brothers (see [56]). He was a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps. (Regtl. No. 22231). He married someone called Parsons in 1920. [[Stanley Bulley's letter](#)]
- 186 **Harry Vanstone** – Harry Garland Vanstone (1893-07/01/1917). In the 1911 census he is recorded as an “Assistant – Boot Shop”, living with his parents at The Triangle, 2 Fore St, BT. He was enlisted as a private in the 2/4 Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 202127). Died 07/01/17. He is buried at the Kantara War Memorial Cemetery in Egypt.
<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/harry-garland-vanstone-ww1/>
- 187 **C. Channon** – Clifford Channon (1897-1930). He is recorded in the 1911 census as an “Apprentice – Draper's” living with his family at The Triangle, Fore St, BT. (see [188]). He enlisted as a private in the 1st City of London Yeomanry Regt. (Regtl. No. 4439). He married Evelyn H. Bird in 1922, but died at the age of 33. [[C.Channon's letter](#)]
- 188 **F. Channon** – Frank Channon (1900-1925). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living with his family at The Triangle, Fore St, BT. (see [187]). He served as a private in the 6th Batt. Dorsetshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 20564). He married Emma Lucy Hooper in 1921, but died in 1925. [[F.Channon's letter](#)]
- 189 **Mrs Cole** – Lucy Cole (née Wood) (04/07/1854-08/09/1928). Bertram's [20] and Henry's [190] mother.
- 190 **H. J. Cole** – Henry John Cole (b.1892). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living with his family at 4 The Terrace, BT, Bertie Cole's [20] older brother. He married Florence M Broom in 1914 at Devonport. He served in the Royal Navy aboard H.M.S. Skirmisher. [[H.J.Cole's letter](#)]
- 191 **Fred Edmonson** – ? [[Fred Edmondson's letter](#)]

- 192 **G. A. Gill** – George Arthur Gill (07/07/1899-1991) Although born in Devonport, he was living in BT in 1911 with his mother, older brother, and younger sister at The Triangle. He served in the Royal Navy (Service No. J33871) on the H.M.S. Valiant from 13th January 1916 until the 15th January 1920. [[G.A.Gill's letter](#)]
- 193 **F. W. Haywood** – Frederick William Haywood (04/06/1895-15/04/1972). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a 'messenger' working for the telegraph living in Ellacombe. He served in the signal section of the 10th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 12020) "Z" Res. 24.4.19. [[F.W.Haywood's letter](#)]
- 194 **E. Kidston** – Edward Kidson (24/08/1881-1955). Thomas Kidston's [75] father. He is recorded in the 1911 census as a Farm labourer living with his brothers and mother at The Triangle, Clanage St, BT. [[E.Kidston's letter](#)]
- 195 **A. Ledger** – Albert Vincent Ledger (1898-1958). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living with his mother and younger brother at Cockhaven St, BT. He served in the Royal Navy aboard H.M.S. Romola. [[A.Ledger's letter](#)]
- 196 **Ernest Apps** – Ernest Alfred Apsee (13/05/1892-1972). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a "gardener domestic" living with his parents and sister at Radway Hill, BT. He was a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps (Regtl. No. 74438)
- 197 **H. W. Ridgeway** – Herbert W. Ridgeway (1898-1956). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living at Ashwell, BT. [[H.W.Ridgeway's letter](#)]. A cousin of Stephen George Ridgeway. <https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/stephen-george-ridgeway-ww1/>
- 198 **Jack Apps** – John Henry Apps (b.~1893). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living at Radway, BT. with his father, John, stepmother, Anna, and brothers, Arthur and James. His mother, Emma (née Parish) died in 1903. He served as a private in the 5th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 3062), the 1/4th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 5786), and the 2/6th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 202994).
- 199 **Pte J. W. Taylor** – James William Taylor (~1897-22/10/1918). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a "Gardener (domestic)" living at Delamore Cottages, BT, with his father, Henry, and mother Jessie. He served as a private in the 1/6th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 267973) Died. 22/10/18. He is buried at the Basra War Cemetery I.R. 14. [[J.W.Taylor's letter](#)]
- 200 **Ethel N. Barnes** – Ethel Maud Barnes (b. ~1892). She is recorded in the 1911 census as living with her mother and father (a butcher) and sister Winnifred at 16 Higher Brimley Terrace, Teignmouth. [[Ethel Barnes' letter](#)]
- 201 **Edith Bissel** – Edith Bissell (b.~1865). She is recorded in the 1911 census as living with her husband James Broad Bissell who is a "Justice of the Peace & late captain of militia", in BT. [[Edith Bissell's letter](#)]
- 202 **A. R. Bowden** – Alice Rachel Bowden (b.~1870). She is recorded in the 1911 census as a "Dress maker" living with her two sisters Merina and Elizabeth Ann at 18 Codrington Street, Newtown, Exeter. [[A.R.Bowden's letter](#)]
- 203 **Lilian Cable** – Lilian Sarah Cable (née Sparkes) (b.~1861). She married Ernest Cable in 1888 in Dawlish. In Kelly's 1919 Directory Sir Ernest Cable is recorded as living at Lyndridge, BT. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Cable,_1st_Baron_Cable [[Lilian Cable's letter](#)]
- 204 **Mary Carpenter** – Mary Ann Catherine Carpenter (1846-1930). The wife of Charles Carpenter; they lived at Huntley, BT. [[Mary Carpenter's letter](#)]
- 205 **J. and R. Cawcutt** – Jane Cawcutt (née Hallaway) (c.1852-1929) and Rosetta Cawcutt (née Clarke) (09/10/1884-1986), John William Cawcutt's mother and wife respectively. John William Cawcutt was a private in the Royal Army Service Corps (Regtl. No. M2/181850). He died on his return from Africa on 2nd of August 1917. <https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/john-william-cawcutt-ww1/> [[J.&R.Cawcutt's letter](#)]
- 206 **W. D. Cleland** – William D Cleland (29/06/1875-1944). Born in Glasgow, he is recorded in the 1911 census as a "plumber" living in The Terrace, BT, and in the 1939 register as at 1 Clanage St, BT. [[W.D.Cleland's letter](#)]

- 207 **Mrs Cope** – Florence Cope (née Starey) (1855-1930). Born in Nottingham, she is recorded in the 1911 census as living at Cockhaven, BT, married to Edward Stephens Cope a “Brassfounder, retired”. They married in 1879 in Basford. Their daughter is listed below. [[Mrs Cope & Mrs Swettenham's letter](#)]
- 208 **Mrs Swettenham** – Emmété Florence Swettenham (née Cope) (b.1880). Born in King's Norton, she was married to Thomas Robert Warren-Swettenham (b. 10/10/1867) in 1907. He was a Major in the East Yorkshire Regt., and died on the 5th of February 1915.
<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/thomas-warren-swettenham-ww1/>
- 209 **S. and N.T. Counter** – Samuel Counter (05/11/1872-1956). Born in Ipplepen, he is recorded in the 1901 census as single, and a “Market Gardener” living at Cockhaven St, BT, with his wife Norah Louise Counter (née Ledger – Albert Vincent Ledger’s [195] aunt) (20/08/1877-1957). They married in 1902. (N.T. must be a typo) [[S.&N.T.Counter's letter](#)]
- 210 **F. A. Courtney** – Frances Augustus Courtney (b.1858) Born in Cork Ireland. [[F.A.Courtney's letter](#)]
- 211 **John Daughlish** – John Daughlish (1879-01/11/1952) The son of Algernon and Rebecca [212], he is recorded in the 1911 census as a Royal Navy chaplain aboard HMS Indomitable at Chatham. He went on to become the Bishop of Nassau. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Daughlish [[John Daughlish's letter](#)]
- 212 **R. C. Daughlish** – Rebecca Collet Daughlish (1853-1936). She is recorded in the 1911 census as living with her husband Algernon (1862-1941) at Pooks Hill, BT. [[R.C.Daughlish's letter](#)]
- 213 **Mrs Dimbleby** – Alice C Dimbleby (née Johnson) (17/11/1871-1951). She married Robert [214] in 1912, and is recorded in the 1939 register as living at Ash-Hill, BT with her husband.
- 214 **R. Dimbleby** – Robert Dimbelby (21/01/1861-1940). In the 1911 census, he is recorded as a widower living at Ash Hill House, BT, with his daughter Helen Louise. [[R.Dimbleby's letter](#)]
- 215 **Christine Eldridge** – ? [[Christine Eldridge's letter](#)]
- 216 **Mrs Evans** – Gertrude Jessie Evans (née Good) (b.07/12/1861). Born in Droitwich, she married Philip James Evans [217] in Cardiff in 1897.
- 217 **Philip James Evans** – Philip James Evans (b.10/02/1870). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “retired Woolen merchant” living at 47 Waverley Rd, Exmouth with his wife [216]. He is recorded in Kelly's directory as living at Burleigh, BT, in 1919 and 1923. Interestingly they are recorded at 4 Eaton Crescent, Bristol in the 1939 Register – see [43] [108] [[Philip Evans' letter](#)]
- 218 **Ada Finch** – Ada Mary Finch (1857-1946) She was Arthur Finch's [22] paternal aunt, recorded in the 1911 census as a “Pottery and China agent”, living alone at 24 Orchard Gardens, Teignmouth.
[[Ada Finch's letter](#)]
- 219 **Mr Ogle** – Rev. Arthur Joseph Saville Ogle (1850-07/04/1912). In the 1911 census, he is recorded as a “Clergyman (Church of England)” living at the Vicarage, BT. He was vicar from 1886. See [139] and [166].
- 220 **L. Foale** – possibly Charlotte Elizabeth Foale (b.-1863) of Lower Rixdale, Chudleigh. (Foale family farming at Rixdale in 1911 census) [[L.Foale's letter](#)]
- 221 **Mary S. Fraine** – Mary Slader Frayne (1852-1920). In the 1911 census she is recorded as living with her son and daughter at 31 Edgecombe St. Stonehouse. [[Mary Fraine's letter](#)]
- 222 **M. Freeman** – Mary Jane Freeman (née Swain) (01/08/1875-1964). The wife of William Osborne Freeman, a nurseryman, florist, seedsman and greengrocer. In the 1939 Register, they are recorded as living at 87 Fore Street, Saltash with their son, and his wife. [[M.Freeman's letter](#)]
- 223 **H. M. Galabin** – Harriett Mignan Galabin (née Baily) (c.1845-1929). She married Alfred Lewis Galabin in 1874 in Highworth. He died in 1913. [[H.M.Galabin's letter](#)]
- 224 **Grace Gardiner** – Grace Fortescue Gardiner (1842-1921). In the 1911 census she is recorded as single of “Private Means”, living at The Cottage, BT. [[Grace Gardiner's letter](#)]

- 225 **E. A. Gardiner** – Elizabeth Anne Gardiner (08/10/1854-1947). In the 1911 census she is recorded as a widow of “Private Means”, living at The Cottage, BT. [[E.A.Gardiner's letter](#)]
- 226 **Leonard Glanfield** – Leonard George Glanfield (1902-02/12/1952). He was born in Exeter, and it seems he worked at Willey's. Leonard's brother Stan rode around the world on a Rudge motorcycle and side-car in 1927, and went into business with Harry Weslake (the son of Henry John Weslake, a director of Willey's), building Wex carburettors. Leonard was one of the founders of Exeter speedway, and started the Exeter Falcons team. [[Leonard Glanfield's letter](#)]
<https://www.jaguarheritage.com/jaguar-history/jaguar-people/harry-weslake/>
- 227 **Mr. Thomas** – ?
- 228 **G. Hambly** – Grace Hambly (19/2/1866-1943). In the 1911 census, she is living in Plymouth with her aunt Emma Luskey. She is recorded in the 1939 register as living (Private means) at Warleigh Villa Saltash, with Harold S. Leithner, a Schoolmaster. [[G.Hambly's letter](#)]
- 229 **Mrs Siddons** – ?
- 230 **Eva Harcourt** – ? [[Eva Harcourt's letter](#)]
- 231 **L. A. Harris** – Lucy Anne Harris (née Sage) (1847-1919). Born in Bristol, she is recorded in the 1911 census as living at The Cottage, Murley Grange, BT, with her husband, Frederick “Reader” Harris [48], and son George. She married in Birmingham in 1869. [[L.A.Harris' letter](#)]
- 232 **Louisa Mohun Harris** – Louisa P Mohun-Harris (c.1831-1920). She is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Landowner” living at Cross House, BT. [[Louisa Mohun Harris' letter](#)]
- 233 **Kate Hawson** – Kate Hawson (1854-1938). Born and died in Sheffield, she is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Nurse – Hospital Trained” living at 5 Orchard Terrace BT. [[Kate Hawson's letter](#)]
- 234 **Frank** – probably Christopher Frank Hill (05/05/1897-1973). Mr & Mrs C.J. Hill's [235] son. According to his service records, he lived at Delamore Farm, BT. and enlisted in the Somerset Light Infantry (Regtl. No. 27730). He returned home 10.3.17 to Windmill Farm, Totnes, and was discharged being no longer physically fit for war 5.8.18. His medical records state “walks with crutch & effort” 15.7.18. He is still suffering in 1.12.21 with what would be described today as PTSD. “Occasional headache & war dreams. Slight tremors hand & tongue –Thomas twitching of muscles of neck & face”
- 235 **Mr and Mrs E.J. Hill** – probably C.J. Hill - Christopher John Hill (b.~1870) and Jesse Annie Hill (b.~1871). They are recorded in the 1911 census as living at Delamore Dairy, BT. with their 2 daughters and 2 sons. In the 1919 directory, C.J. Hill is recorded as at Windmill Down Farm, Totnes. [[Mr & Mrs Hill's letter](#)]
- 236 **Monica Hollis** – ? School house, Luton. [[Monica Hollis' letter](#)]
- 237 **Mr. Hooke** – John Samuel Hooke (09/11/1860-1950). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Platelayer G.W.R”, living with his wife Harriet [238], and son Herbert, at The Terrace, BT.
- 238 **H. F. Hooke** – Harriet L. Hooke (née Apse) (24/07/1858-1941). See above [237]. [[H.F.Hooke's letter](#)]
- 239 **A. Hutchings** – Alice Hutchings (née Manning) (c.1874-1951). In the 1911 census she is recorded as a “Dressmaker”, living at The Triangle, Fore St, BT. Her brother, Frederick John Manning (18/01/1875-31/05/1918), was Leading Stoker in the Royal Navy (No. 278881) aboard H.M.S. Doris. Alice's letter is written before her brother died. [[A.Hutchings' letter](#)]
<https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/frederick-john-manning-ww1/>
- 240 **Cissie Johnson** – ? 7 Glene St, Chelsea. [[Cissie Johnson's letter](#)]
- 241 **May Jones** – ? 20 Rhiw Rd, Colwyn Bay, N. Wales. [[May Jones' letter](#)]
- 242 **Mr. Kennaway** – Leonard Mark Kennaway (1876-1937). The 1891 census records him as a “Scholar” living in Pennsylvania (Homefield), St. David, Exeter, with his parents Lawrence, and Mary, and siblings. He married Bertha Emmeline Clark [244] in 1915.

- 243 **Miss Wright** – possibly Miss Wight [283]
- 244 **Bertha E. Kennaway** – Bertha Emmeline Kennaway (née Clark) (03/09/1892-1969). See above [242]. [[Bertha Kennaway's letter](#)]
- 245 **John R. Kelly** – John Richard Kelly (1859-1926). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Butler” living at The Terrace with his wife Jane, and daughter Bessy at 3 Teign View Terrace, BT. He married Jane Ray in 1886. He was a butler at Murley Grange, working for the Koebel's [246 , 247]. [[John Kelly's letter](#)]
- 246 **Mr. Koebel** – Oscar Koebel (1846-1921) Recorded in the 1901 census as a “Retired indigo merchant” living at Murley Grange, BT, with his wife [see 247] and children. He was the father of Charles Edward Koebel (24/01/1878-24/08/1915). Charles Edward Koebel was a Captain in the Queen's 1st Royal West Surrey Regt. <https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/charles-edward-koebel-ww1/>
- 247 **Emma E. Koebel** – Emma Elizabeth Koebel (née Mills) (1846-1918) Wife of Oscar Koebel [246]. They married in 1871 in Windsor. [[Emma Koebel's letter](#)]
- 248 **Reg:** – Reginald John Burge (27/08/1896-18/02/1918), Daisy Lias' [249] brother. The index of wills records him as a “bank clerk” of 48 Torquay Rd. Newton Abbot.
- 249 **Daisy Lias** – Kate Johnston Burge (1886-1965). She married James William Lias (1885-1941) in 1914 in Newton Abbot. She is recorded in the 1911 census as an “Elementary school teacher” living at Fernbank, 4 Torquay Rd, Newton Abbot with her mother Eliza Ann Burge, and brother Reginald [248]. James Lias is recorded in the 1939 register as a “Head Master at Art School” in Penzance. [[Daisy Lias' letter](#)]
- 250 **K. Luker** – ? [[K.Luker's letter](#)]
- 251 **Fanny Mackworth** – Fanny A. M. Mackworth (c.1834-1926) She was born in Bombay India, and is recorded in the 1911 census as living at Radway Villa, BT. [[Fanny Mackworth's letter](#)]
- 252 **Lilian** – Lilian Maud Thorn (née Maddicott) (1893-1989). Born in Alverstoke, Hampshire, she married Reginald Robert Thorn in 1917, who in the 1911 census is recorded as the “post office clerk” living and working with his father Robert, the “Post master”. She is Hilda Maddicott's [254] sister. [[Lily Thorne's letter](#)]
- 253 **his little brother** – Donald Jesse (Donnie) Wallis (1913-1914).
- 254 **Hilda Maddicott** – Hilda Maddicott (18/04/1896-1980). Born in Alverstoke, Hampshire, she is recorded in the 1911 census as a “Scholar” living at Shute Farm, BT. She married Jozef Lawinski in 1949. [[Hilda Maddicott's letter](#)]
- 255 **T. Marshall** – possibly Thomas John Marshall (b.1862). He is recorded in the 1911 census as a “retired Director Brewery” living in Teignmouth with his wife Alice. [[T.Marshall's letter](#)]
- 256 **M. F. Maude** – Minnie Frances Maude (née Ede) (19/02/1869-27/05/1961). At the time of her marriage in 1914 she is recorded as the daughter of Charles Ede, an “oriental merchant”, from Shaldon Devon. In the 1911 census she is recorded as living at The Nook, Shaldon with 3 servants. She married John Maude, a solicitor, and widower in Christ Church, Mayfair. John Maude is recorded as resident at The Moors, BT, in the 1919 Kelly's Directory of Devon. [[M.F.Maude's letter](#)]
- 257 **E. May** – possibly Ernest John May (b. 26/11/1873), a farmer at Ash Hill. [[E.May's letter](#)]
- 258 **Thirza Mead** – Thirza Gill Mead (b.1899). The daughter of John Charles Mead (“Clay cutter”), and Eliza Mead, she is recorded in the 1911 census as living with her family in Dickers Court, Kingsteignton. [[Thirza Mead's letter](#)]
- 259 **G. M. Mead** – Gladys May Mead (b.1900). Thirza Mead's [258] younger sister. [[G.M.Mead's letter](#)]
- 260 **K. Parish** – Kate Susan Parish (née Marks) (1879-1948). She married George Parish [69] in 1900 in St. Thomas, Exeter. [[K.Parish's letter](#)]
- 261 **Ivy Pascoe** – ? [[Ivy Pascoe's letter](#)]

- 262 **W. Passmore** – probably Walter William Passmore (b.~1875). In the 1911 census he is recorded as a “School Attendance Officer” living with his mother, grandmother, and sister in Bridford, Devon. [[W.Passmore's letter](#)]
- 263 **E.M. Peterson** – ? [[E.M.Peterson's letter](#)]
- 264 **Mr. Townsend** – possibly William Townsend (~1841-1934). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living with his wife Elizabeth at Fulford Cottages, Clanage Street, BT. She died in 1912.
- 265 **M. Phelps** – possibly Marta Phelps (1867-1922) Born in Marlborough, Wilts., she is recorded in the census of 1891 as a “Parlour maid” living in Bournemouth, and then in 1911 as living in Paignton. Her death is registered in Newton Abbot. [[M.Phelp's letter](#)]
- 266 **Margaret Phillips** – Margaret Ida Phillips (30/11/1883-1971). Born in Acton, Middlesex, she is recorded as living in Myrtle Cottage, BT in the 1911 census. [[Margaret Phillips' letter](#)]
- 267 **Alice Phillips** – Alice Katherine A Phillips (1890-1946) Margaret's [266] sister. [[Alice Phillips' letter](#)]
- 268 **May Phillips** – Mary Phillips (née Stidston) (19/04/1884-1970), she is recorded in the 1901 census as living at Cockhaven Farm, BT. She married John Austin Phillips (05/12/1881- 27/06/1971), assistant county surveyor in 1913. He is recorded in the 1901 census as a “post office clerk” living in Myrtle cottage, BT. He is Margaret [266] and Alice [267] Phillips' brother. [[May Phillips' letter](#)]
- 269 **Bessie** – ? Teresa Rowland's old nurse.
- 270 **Mrs Rowland** – Teresa's [271] mother.
- 271 **Teresa M. M. Rowland** – Teresa May Martha Rowland (1876-1961). Born in Southsea, Hampshire, she is recorded in the 1891 census as living with her uncle William a retired army colonel, and his wife Eleanor, at Le Thare, Totnes. In the 1911 census she is living in Ryde on the Isle of Wight with her father George, a retired Major, and mother, Teresa Mary Matilda Rowland. [[Teresa Rowland's letter](#)]
- 272 **E. and F. Sharland** – possibly Emma Elizabeth Sharland (1873-1937). Her husband was James T. Sharland (c.1867-1936). They were the parents of William James Sharland (1893-20/11/1916). William was a private in the 10th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 12022). He was killed in action in Greece. [[E.&F. Sharland's letter](#)] <https://www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk/people/william-james-sharland-ww1/>
- F. Sharland** – ? possibly Francis Sharland (c.1837-1923)
- 273 **A. C. Slader** – Amy Caroline Slader (née Phillips) (18/04/1872 – 13/2/1949). She married John Edwin Slader in 1902. She is recorded in the 1901 census as a “Schoolmistress” living in Chumleigh, Devon. Her mother, Emma Phillips (née Robbins) is recorded as a “Head Teacher” in the 1911 census. [[A.C.Slader's letter](#)]
- 274 **Lord Poltmore** – George Wentworth Warwick Bampfylde 4th Baron Poltmore (1882-1965). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wentworth_Warwick_Bampfylde,_4th_Baron_Poltmore
- 275 **E. N. Lindsay** – Evelyn Minto Lindsay (24/05/1896-13/12/1979). He is recorded in the 1911 census as living with his father George, “Head Gamekeeper”, mother Isabel, and sister Hilda Lucy, an “assistant teacher”, at The Kennels, Poltmore, Exeter. He was employed as a junior clerk in the goods department of the London and South Western Railways from December of 1913. He volunteered for military service on the 7th September 1914, and returned to work on the 19th May 1919. He served as a private in the 10th Batt. Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No.12011) in Salonica. [[E.N.Lindsay's letter](#)]
- 276 **Ernest Thomas** – Ernest Victor Thomas (20/11/1887-1972) Born in Bramford Speke, he is recorded in the 1911 census as a gardener living in Paignton. He was a Lance Corporal in the 10th (service) Batt. of the Devonshire Regt. (Regtl. No. 12024), and served in Salonica. [[Ernest Thomas' letter](#)] see also [Photo of E.V.Thomas](#)
- 277 **Doris** – Doris Jessie Ward (b.~1906) see below [278]
- 278 **J. Ward** – Jessie Louisa Ward (b.~1877). She is recorded in the 1911 census as living with her husband, William a ‘Butcher and Cattle dealer’, daughter Doris, and son William, at Post Office street, BT. [[J.Ward's letter](#)]

- 279 **L. Weston** – Lucy Weston (b.~1874) recorded in the 1911 census as a 'dress maker' living at the Triangle, BT with her husband James, daughter and two sons. She is at the address in her letter in the 1921 census. [[L.Weston's letter](#)]
- 280 **Mrs Keddaway** – possibly Mrs Kennaway [244] or Mrs Emma Kellaway (b.~1855), recorded in the 1911 census as living with her husband George, and daughter Mabel at Fore St. BT.
- 281 **Bert** – probably Bert Dransfield (b.~1906) see [283]
- 282 **Mr Gwynne** – Rev. Richard Lloyd Gwynne (04/02/1859-08/02/1941). He was curate of St. Johns in Tunbridge Wells. In the 1911 census he is recorded as a visitor at the house of Walter Dingwall, at St. Johns vicarage, Crowborough. In 1917 he is living at the Rectory, Little Easton, Dunmow, Essex.
- 283 **F. Wight** – Fenella (Ella) Blanche Wight (1876-1956). She was born on the Isle of Man. In the 1881 and 1891 censuses, she is living with her father Robert, a "Hotel Proprietor", mother Mary, and brother Robert Frederick (Fred) at "Fenella" Hotel, Peel Hill, Peel, Isle of Man. In the 1911 census she is recorded as a "School Teacher" living at 1 Albion Road, Tunbridge Wells, with her mother, a widow, nephew Bert Dransfield, and niece Ella Dransfield. In the 1914 Kelly's Directory she is recorded as the School mistress at Luton School, Devon. She married Ferdinand Ries in 1926. [[F.Wight's letter](#)]
- 284 **Mrs Harvey** – possibly Lucy Harvey (née Beater) (b.~1871), wife of William Harvey "licenced victualler" at the Ship Inn, Cockwood, Starcross. William was born in Bishopsteignton.
- 285 **A. Wotton** – possibly Alice Maud Mary Wotton (née Sanguin) (b.~1862), wife of Walter William Wotton, living at Warren, Oak Cliff Cottage, Starcross. [[A.Wotton's letter](#)]
- 286 **Arthur Neild** – Rev. Arthur Neild. (07/11/1849-25/04/1925) (He was previously known by the surname Krauss, as in the 1911 census, but took his mothers maiden name at some point after this). He was the vicar of Pirbright. He kept a notebook of his parishioners who "had gone or were going to the Front". His wife Alice Anna Neild died in 1923 in Guildford. [<https://www.pirbright.info/>] [[Arthur Neild's letter](#)]