

"I had a good dream last night
And was home again
Everything was so plain
I was going down the street with you
When the guns woke me up."

Teddy Mouchemore to his mother, France, 21 March 1918.

Ben and Ted Mouchemore joined the Australian Imperial Force on 5 October 1916.

Ben trained at Royal Park Military Camp in Melbourne and Ted at Blackboy Hill in Western Australia.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Royal Park

Nov 25 1916

My Dear Mother

Just a few lines to say how things are going
my nose is almost well again
I had the stitches out this week but I am afraid it will leave a scar,
it seemed dead for some time
the Doctor said the nerves were brused by the bang
Well how is Phill's knee now
I hope it is well
he was very unlucky
I trust they are doing better than when Father last wrote
he was saying things were bad.
Mother I found Peter after a long chase and he directed me to Gussey where
he said Uncle Jack was staying
I found Gussey and her husband very nice but Uncle Jack had gone Home
also Aunty Fanny a week ago
from them I was directed to Aunty Grace and Uncle Walter and family whom I
found well and very nice
there are two girls at home Ethel who is 16 and Daisy who is about 23 or 24
very nice girls and a boy about three years very nice little chap
Gussy also has two boys but I have only seen one and he a little terror
about 3 years

Peter also has two more boys
he as 5 in family
I did not see Burt he was working
I was supposed to go there to dinner tomorrow but this being on guard put
an end to it all
I am on for 24 hours come off 6 tomorrow night
and it as been raining and thundering terrible
I have not had a chance to go down to Geelong yet for the boats are not
running on account of this coal trouble,
but I am looking forward to haveing a look at them all before I leave which
I expect will be about the 7 or 9 of next month
we expect to call in at Fremantle for coal and troops there
1500 left this camp last week by the Medic
Mother I have not been able to have my photo taken with this nose of mine,
but will do so before I leave
I had it taken in a group upon the grounds but I have not seen them yet
I be able to pick my self out by the sticking plaster on my face
Mother I have not seen Mr Landry since or called on Dons Mother but will do
so when I get the time
Mother did I tell you I let the Ford car go to Andrews to cover his bill
I have had some trouble over the mail money which I made payable to Arthur
and they would not pay it because it was not witnessed,
but I have sent over new forms signed and witnessed to draw untill end of
year
Now Mother I shall have to say goodbye
give my love to them all at home
also Don & Dora & Laura & Children
hoping Laura as had good news from Arthur
Now with love & best wishes for yourself from your ever true son
Ben.

Methodist Soldiers' Institute
Military Camp, Royal Park

Dec 7 1916

My Dear Mother

Your ever welcome letter to hand a few days ago which I was very pleased to receive and to hear of Jean and her twins doing so well
Yes Phill shall have to work a little longer for them
I trust his knee is better again
Well Mother I was fortunate enough to get down to Geelong and see them all except uncle George
he works up country
they all made me very welcome
and I did not see Rosey Grigg she was at work and I thought to see her on Sunday but they did not take me there @again
they want me to come down again if I have time
I stayed with Uncle Phill who looks well and young,
they are all well except Aunt Millie who seems to be worrying very much over her boy.

I also called on Aunty Rose at Ascot Vale
they were all well but I was suprised I thought to find her or rather pictured a very different looking woman
thought she was tall with large dark eyes
I went and saw two of her married daughters one who had just lost a little one about 2 years old by scalding
pulled a bole of hot soup...

poor girl was very much broken up over it,
they live at Coburg a little distance from Aunty Grace whom I visited also with Gussie Mouchemore and her husband who also live at Ascot Vale,
I went there expecting to find Uncle Jack who Peter said was up with his launch in dock, but he had left a week previous so I missed him
Peter lives at Port Melbourne

he has aged very much .

I had arranged to go and have dinner with them last sunday week, but had the misfortune to be on guard for 24 hours
we have had a lot of it of late so one does not have much time to one self
we were to sail on the 11th

now it is put off untill 19 so we will strike Fremantle about Xmas
Yes Mother this coal strike as been terrible and now things are not too bright in England

everything seems to be in a bad way throughout

Well Mother Melbourne is not at al a nice place to live in
wind dust and rain one day or the other

it as been blowing a gale today with terrible dust storms but looks like rain again tonight which I prefer to the dust for it effects my eyes very much especially like today

So Ted was to sail on the end of the month
he will be ahead of me then

Mother this suspense is killing

we are going through our drill all over again.

You asked me about my stripes Mother

no there is no stripes going

I was too late and there is so much competition
all are after them or rather many of them

but it is not much of a snap for a N.C.O. has a lot of worry here amongst
such a --- of men for we have them of all stations of life
but things in general are improving and I am getting more use to it
I had a rise last week
taken from the reinforcements and put into the first raters
so I am above all the W.A. boys but one who was made a sargent when he
landed
and he is a poor old thing to
they counted him out last week twice
so they have shifted him off the drill staff
Now Mother I think I have said all this time and I hope this will find you
all doing well
give my love to them one and all and accept the very best for yourself,
from your ever affectionate son
Ben.

*
 Daniel L. MOUCHEMORE (1817-1890)
 and
 Caroline E. Wayth (1822-1904)

Henry Brooks ("Harry") b.1856	Daniel W ("Dan") b.1858 m.Mary d.1911	Eliza b.1860	William b.1862 d.1895	John b.1865	Grace b.1867 m.Will'm Crump	Peter b.1870
Father	----		----	Uncle Jack	Aunty Grace & Uncle Walter	Peter
fisherman Albany W.A.	[fish Q'cliff Vic]		[fish Q'cliff Vic]		Coburg	Port Melb.

* Son of William Cole MOUCHEMORE (sailor) and Grace Lawrence (nee White) of Dartmouth, England. Daniel arrived in Victoria in 1852 and was a fisherman at Queenscliff.

*
 Charles Henry MAXSTED (1822-)
 and
 Sarah Snellang (1837-)

Mary Ann ("Annie") b.1859	George Henry b.1861 m. Jean McGlashen	Amelia Jane b.1863 m. Robert Humphrey <i>Girga</i>	Rosalie b.1865 m. - Alf Brigg Farrow	Edward Philip b.1871 m. Martha Barling
Mother	Uncle George baker Q'cliff	Aunt Millie	Aunty Rose Ascot Vale	Uncle Phill baker Q'cliff

* Son of George William MAXSTED (attorney) and Ann (nee Marley) of Market Raisin, Lincolnshire. Henry was a master mariner and captained three convict ships to Australia. He settled in Australia in 1852 and farmed near Geelong. Sarah was a dairymaid from Somerset who arrived in Geelong in 1857.

*2 sons killed
in WW I*

Henry Brooks MOUCHEMORE (1856-1937)
and
Mary Ann Maxsted (1859-19)

CHILDREN

- 1 Phillip Henry b.1879 m. Jane
("Phil") ("Jean?")
- 2 Rose J b.1881
- 3 Benjamin George m. Erna Teschner
Siward Brooks
("Ben") b.1882
- 4 Paul W b.1883
- 5 Laura b.1887
- 6 Ruth b.1888
- 7 Dora b.1889
- 8 Kester G b.1891 d.1892
- 9 Barnard b.1893
("Barney")
- 10 Ulyses b.1894 d.1895
- 11 Edward b.1896
("Ted")

Ben left Melbourne on board the 'PERSIC' on 22 December 1916.
He was listed as a driver (rank of private) with the Third Australian
Auxiliary Mechanical Transport Company.

Ted boarded the 'PERSIC' when it reached Fremantle on 29 December 1916. He
was listed as private with the 28th Battalion.

For God, King and Empire
THE AUSTRALIAN YMCA
With the Australian Imperial Forces

No. 6351
Battalion 28
Brigade 7

1917 [January]

My Dear Mother and Father

Just to let you know that Ben and I are in the best of health and haveing a good time at sea

We are about 2300 miles from you now

I had to put my kit bag down the hole and Ben saw the name and asked what his bag was doing there

it was mine

He is with a fine lot of chaps

He did not know that I was coming on.

I could just see Barny and that all not near enough to speak

I was sorry I could not speak to him

he was quite broken up I could see as we was leaving

I didn't see Jack.

Our food is very good

I could eat all day hear

I have my dinner and about three I could have another dinner.

It is a very long trip

all I have seen is two or three birds and two flying fish

you see very little and I cannot say too much about us.

There is a great game on hear call House

it the game to take ones money

no good to me

I lost a few shillings and got more back and nocked off.

We have boxing and all kinds of games

We are going to have a play soon

I have not been sick yet

I did not feel to good the first day or two

my chum was bad for three or four days

He leaves a wife and three little ones at home.

It has been lively weather so far

We haven't met any tin fish yet

They are no good to us

Old Bill would give his kids a holiday if he got us.

It is just four o'clock hear now and it about 9 or 10 at night there

It has just come on to rain

it is quite hot

We are having very hot weather since we left

down where we sleep it just like a stokehole

Well Dear I will close now

you may get another with this one

Good bye love

I am your ever loving son

Ted.

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Ben and Ted arrived in Devenport, England on 3 March 1917.

Soon after their arrival, Ben was transferred to Delhi Hospital (Parkhouse) suffering from bronchitis. He was discharged from hospital on 18 March 1917.

No 6351

E C -----

18 Run

28 Batt

7 INF Brigade

March 12 1917

My Darling Mother

just afew lines to let you know that I am just O.K.
as good as ever I felt in my life
Well love I am still in the same old place
I had a letter from Arthur
he said he would so much like to see me to talk about old times
so I am waiting to get my leaf to get down to him
he said he think he will be on the next list for Australia
I hope he is
just to get home to Lara and little ones.
We have had some good weather this last few days

I had a letter from Ben
he is well
he is at Park House Camp
he wants me to go with him but I dont know
I did feel like it
But now I dont care about it.

There were about 40 men went from hear the other night
and the 17/28 are on draft now
I surpose we will have the 19/28 hear soon
they are on there way

I have wrote to all except Ruth and Father
I must write tomorrow night
I hope you are having a good time at Fremantle
It is about time you had a trip.
Well my love I will close now
hoping this will find you in as good health as I am
Give my love to all I know
Good Bye love
I am your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

For God, For King & For Country
Y.M.C.A.
H.M. Forces on Active Service

No. 6351
Battalion 28
Brigade 7
1917 [late March]

My Dear Mother

just a few lines to let you know that I am O.k.
hoping you are the same
Well Dear we have been hear three weeks this Saturday
and had no pay
But I think we will be getting some tomorrow.
I dont know when we will be going on leaf [leave]
Two of our huts are isolated and all the 17/28
the hut I am in is guard and ordley
I am one ordley.
By word We are going to have hard times in the way of food
little bits of bread and meat have to be taken back
I tell you what happened this morning
We had fish and one peace of bread per man
and there were two or 3 little bits left about one inch
so I threw them in with the scraps
and when I got down there an officer was there
went off crook an the chap had to take them out
he said they can be used up
do you know they put all that stuf in our st--
things must be pretty hard
they dont know that there is a war on in Australia
I don't think the war will last too long now
they are doing pretty good
We are expecting the 19/28 hear any time now
the 17/28 are on draft
they will go any time now and then we are next
Will be some time yet.
We are expecting a mail any time
I will be pleased when it comes
I have only had two letters from home and they were from you
tell Barny to write every week.
Have you seen anything of Flo
I had a letter from Mack and he said that she was at the hotel at the beach
is Barny still going with Frances or done her in
it seemed like it when I left
is Barny and Dora speaking yet.
Well love I will close now as there is nothing to write about
Good bye love
With best of love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

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PS Give my love to all at home and Mrs Westerbury and the boys and Mr and
Mrs Able and boys
Good Bye My Dear
xxxxxxxxxx
(Dont Worry)

Ted was admitted to Fargo Hospital ("sick") on 27 March 1917 and discharged from hospital a week later (3 April).

April 16 1917

Dearest Mother

just a few lines to let you know that I am o.k.
Well dear we go on a review tomorrow to Bullford 9 miles from here
there 1000s of men in this camp tonight
camp in tents
I pity them for it has been a rotten day and a rotten night
We went for a march this afternoon but it rained so hard that we came back
Fred Bean is down here from ---ford but two miles further on at Lark Hill.
Well dear I have just heard that you can't send any money to me
so I wrote to see if I can find Arthur and see if he can get it so you will
know what it is
this y.m.c.a. is full tonight
We had a job to get a seat to write.
there was a line of us in for today about two miles long and more tomorrow
and yet they say if we can't get more men we can't win
Why mum they can hardly feed who they have got
I often go to bed hungry
and if it was not for our pay we would starve
We live on the canteens and y.m.c.a.
But we can only buy off them after five at night
We went down to --urton two miles from here and went to a little place for
tea
and there was four of us and we ask for six pieces of bread and 4 cakes
She went off like a gun.
-- men you can't have that
you know we are six weeks off ----
I can give you two pieces of bread and cake and as many eggs as you want
and -- -- in a tail a yard long
so she brought us six pieces of bread and 8 cakes
what we ask for in the first place
she thought we meant 6 each.
they are mad here
and the best of it I am getting so fat
it is not what I eat, for one can't get too much
one chap ask me did I have toothache this morning and Bill said no it is the
condition he has got.
Yes- today is the hottest 2 hours sun I have seen since I have been here
it was lovely
We laid down on a hay stack and went to sleep
it was just like Australia again
But it did not last long.
How is your eye getting on
I hope it is better
How is all Albany folks
Remember me to them all and all at home
Tell them to write and send any old socks they have got for I am cold ---.
I wish I kept my White Star gurnsey I could do with it now
You would not credit how cold it is here
talk to any one in London about it
Salisbury they say that rotten place, the last place God made
made it on a Saturday too I think
Well love I will close now
hoping this will find you in the best of health as it leaves me
could not be better
hoping to hear from you and all soon

Good Bye love
I am your ever loving son
Ted

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No. 6351
18/28
7 Brigade

April 17 1917

My Dear Mother

just a few lines hoping you are well
I had two letters from Vera but did not get any from you or any of the others
I wish they would write
if they were hear and knew what it was like to get a letter from home they would soon write
I have wrote lots to them, but no more till I hear from them
they can easy spare 5 minutes to drop me a line
I have wrote to Ben and Arthur but had no word from them
I sent a form to London to find out where Arthur is

We had sports the other day
It was ANZAC day
I got a race
each boy had to take off there boots and puttees and coat and hat and stand back about 3 yards and raced getting dressed and full pack up and march 10 yards --
Well we got it
best dressed and first
the prize was 3 pound
that is five bob each
it will come in very handy for smokes

There was 100 of the 17/28 went the night before
and a lot out of other companies
about 300 men all told
We are next
We were told off to night as a mergantce [emergeney?]
I am in it
we are as good as been on draft
may be there by the time you get this letter
But dont worry I be all right
or it mite be a long time yet.

Vera mother is worrying a lot over Frank
he was killed just before I left
and Vera says she is worrying a lot over me
she seems to like me mum.

One of my palls went to the hospital the other night
and another to Park House camp tonight with mumps
We are isolated for 24 days
We go out to drill just the same.

a pommie shot himself last saturday
and one of our chaps did last Friday
and there was a bit of an explosion on Monday
some officer and men were at the boming school
something exploded.
Cut a few about

one killed.

did I tell you that I got 24 hours leaf for been the best dressed on guard
too.

Well love I will close now

Good Bye dear

I am your ever loving son

Ted

xxxxxxxxxx

Give my love to all

and dont worry.

The Salvation Army
Recreation and Reading Room
For His Majesty's Troops

June 7 1917

My Dearest Mother

just a few lines to let you know I am in the best of health
hoping you are the same.
Have you had any letter from Ben of late
I wrote to him but got no answer
I have not had any letters from anyone for some time now
it must be two month

It is very hot hear and we are very short of water
the only barth we get is a steam one
If we get too many of them it will pull me down for I am pretty fat now
all the chaps sling off at me
When I say I getting thin they tell me I wont be able to see out of my eyes
soon.
We get very good food hear
We have a hot tea every night
it dont get dark here till after ten
they blow lights out before it is dark
We get up at 5.30
Breakfast at six
We have long hours.

The -- men and the old chaplain is very good
they make plenty of fun
to be in the camp you would not think there was a war on

The Australians are a lot of hard drinking? ragtime lot
But they can do there drill if they like
But they dont like at times
you ort to hear them sometimes at the Bull Ring counting the instructors
out
they dont like it all
But it must break them up
they have to do there work and teach
up there are some pretty good ones and some pretty rotten ones bulllys

I am sending you a card in this letter from hear
Well dear I will close now
hoping this will find you in the best of health as it leaves me at present
Give my love to all at home
and kiss the little ones for me
Good Bye dear
I am your ever loving son
Ted

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dont Worry

=====
Ted's war record shows him embarking at Southampton for France on
22 May 1917. ~~He may in fact have embarked on 12 June 1917.~~

Admitted from England 23 May
Proceeded to join unit 11 June
Taken on strength 12 June

Ben proceeded to France via Southampton on 20 June 1917.

FRANCE

June 27 1917

My Dearest Mother

just a few lines in answer to your ever most welcom letter wich I recived yesterday.

they were a bit late but I was pleased to get them
I am verry sorry -- Ruth illness
I hope she is quite better again now.

We were on a bit of a stunt the other day
I see some Australian chaps
I went down to see if Ben was there but he had gone
I have not seen him for nearly four months now.
I had a letter from him
he has been to London again and is quite well
I also had a letter from Father and Barny and Dora also Ruth

There is plenty of red curants and blackburys hear
I had a lot of them yesterday
It rained verry hard last night
mud up to your boot tops this morning
it is a great cuntray this.
I am on guard at the present
it is the best job of the lot today
you seen some fien? work hear
at night we are still on rest

You may of read of some --- been brook up
I have seen a lot
and some places you cannot find a hole brick
they cut down fruit trees

That rade they had in London
I knew a girl there
it was not three minuts walk from her place
she got a bit of a shaking up

Thank very much for the socks
they are just what I want
I have not got them yet
they will go to England first and I will be lucky if I get them
my address is 28 Batt, B Coy, AIF.
Give my love to all at home
I will write to them later
remember me to the boys and Mrs Westey and Mr and Mrs Able
Well dear I will close now
hoping this will find you in the best of health as it leaves me at present
Well Good Bye dear
cheer up and dont worry
it wont be long before I am home again
I am your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxx

France

August 3 1917

just a few lines in answer to your ever most welcom letter
I had a letter from Ben
he is up this way I think
We have shifted from our old place.
the people hear are Flemish.
it is very pretty up this way
I dont think they will be short of flour this year
they are cutting there wheat and is pretty good by what I see of it

It has been raining ever since we cam hear.
We get a lot of marching.
It nearly get me down at times
The roads are bad
if it is not mud it is hard stone
and it is bad to march on.

We can get plenty of milk hear and bread
We bye it at the back? hear
Bread is two frank a loaf
that is 1/8 in English mony
and butter you can get about a 1/4 of a pound for a frank
10 pence
it is not to bad
there bread is flat and as big round as a big size frying pan
and some verry long
but it is good bread
they light a big fire in the oven and let it burn out and then put there
bread in it
it takes about an hour to cook.

I had a letter from Barny
he tells me Frank is married [Frances?]
he is a bit hurt over it
it is the best thing that could happen
Yes Mother I will write to Rose as soon as I can.
Sunday is the only day we get to write a good letter.

There is a lot of planes about today
I have not received that parcle yet
I am so soory to hear poor old Be-- is ill
Give her my love mother
I am verry sorry for poor Aunt Mill
She is having bad? luck,
did Jack get gased verry bad
it is no good I can tell you

Yes dear we are getting pretty good food
Yes I had a letter from Corral?
she is well
she had a pretty bad trip down the coast
Well love I think I will ring off for now as there is not much to write
about hear
will try and find some more for next week?

Well good bye love and dont worry
Hoping this will find you in the best of health as I am.
Give my love to all at home
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Ben suffered head injuries in an explosion on 15 August 1917 near Ypres.
He was transferred by the "Stad Antwerpen" to England on 21 August and
admitted to the Eastbourne Military Hospital with a fractured skull
(severe).

France

Sept 5 1917

My Dearest Mother

just a few lines in answer to your ever welcom letter that I received today
there is still one missing

I got No 12

No 11 is missing and some of Vera's allso.

I think they must of gone down.

I thank you verry much for Jeff address

I dont know where the 29th are

but I may come across them some day.

I am pleased to know Arthur is on his way home

he will be there by this.

I seen young M----- the other day

he told me that he seen Arthur about six weeks ago in England

and he was going the next day

he said that he looked well

Arthur had just been up to see his brother

I was pleased to hear it for his place is at home

You say he has six months leaf

Well dear he will never see this part of the world again

not in war time anyhow.

Yes Mother Ben is allways unlucky

But he is lucky in this place

I suppose you have heard by this that he has been wounded

in the head I hear

it would be a peace of shell I think

I wrote to his O.C. to find out all about it.

I went down to see one of my palls at the hospital last Sunday

and I met one of the chaps that came over with Ben

and he told me about it

a runner told him I think

it must have happened last saturday

I dont think it is anything to worry about

There was only two of them hit.

it would be the chap in the car with him

We allways getting wounded

and getting to England is lucky.

I suppose he is in England by this

I expect a letter from him any time now.

Yes mum I have turned 21

I did not have a holiday.

we were out doing a stunt and at night I was on guard

I would of liked to of been home

But I will be there for the next

Dont send any more parcles

I do not get them so it is no good

I did not get any of the last

Yes I did hear that you are having a bad winter out there

We have had a good lot of rain over hear of late
But this last three days has been verry hot
I am pleased to hear that old man Westerbery is about again.
I am getting the letters all right now
But I have only got one from Father
I have not heard from Philip or Jean yet
do they write
I got one from Dora and Lara
I wrote to Rose last week
I sent her a little keepsake
I would like to send you some things
but I could not get them away.
I dont surpose there is many lads left in Albany now
Barny tells me that the AGA has been in camp since I left
I wish I was there with them.
I bet they are having a good time at the forts.

Well dear I will say Good Bye for now
Give my love to all
hoping this will find you in the best of health as it leaves me at present
Good Bye dear
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

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PS I got little Ruth's letter all right
kiss the little ones for me

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

Belgium

Sept 16 1917

My Dear Mother

just a line or so dear to let you know I am well.
I am well up in it now.
I have met a lot more of the lads
I have not seen Wally yet.
There is a Mouchemore down hear
I will try and see him
I have not heard from Ben yet
I have seen a lot of the chaps that came over with him
he has gone to England
I have not got any mail this time
may get some today.

On church parade this morning you could hardly hear one another speak
and then a lot of Fritzs came over and we had to stop for a while
droped a few bombs and went again.
We are having some pretty good weather ---

The first divi came up
But not one of the Albany boys came
They left them behind
a lot of ours to.
one of my cobbers is in the hospital
Bill is hear with me.

It is the end of the summer hear today.
How are things at home
How is the fishing
Well dear I think I will close now
Give my love to all
Good Bye dear
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxx

Dont Worry

September 23 1917

My Dear Mother

just a line dear to let you know I am OK
I surpose you have heard of our stunt
I came out all right
it was not to bad
we came out yesterday morning.
I see Fred Bean yesterday
he is going up to hold the trench
I have not heard from Ben yet

I got a letter from you yesterday
I will answer it later when we get setteled down
We are all about verry tired.
Sid Smith is all right
he is hear at my tent now
We had a little rain the night we jumped off
it was verry cold
we soon got warm

I have not received any parcles yet
I am pleased Arthur is home.
How are things at home
Give my love to all

There is a Muchemore up this way
he is on the guns
The ground we went over was verry muddy
in places you would go down up to your waist
had to pull one and other out
the ground was cut up a good bit with shell
Well dear I will close now dear
Hoping this will find you in the best of health as I am at present
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted
xxxxxxx

Dont Worry

September 26 1917

My Dearest Mother

just a line or so dear to let you know I am in the best of health
hoping this will find you the same.
Have you heard from Ben of late
I have not heard from him for a long time
I wrote to his OC?
well what I thort
but I got an answer saying he had never been with the third A.A.S.P.
I dont know what he was with
he had often put his adress on his letters but it was allways crossed out
I will write now to the A.S.P. and see if that will find him.

How is the weather over that way now
It is pretty fine hear now
I hope it keeps fine for a while
We will need it
I dont think this can last much longer

I am pleased to know that Arthur is home and looking so well
Lara?? and little ones would go mad for a while
Barney was telling me Jack Ralph is to be married to May Roberts
it would be a great wedding
I would like to be there
I gess I would have some fun
they are both pretty mad
How does old Bill take it.

I see one of my photos in the Old A G-t the other day
Fred Bean had it
it put me in mind of old times
I see Fred the day I cam out of the line
he was going up any time.
Well dear I cannot tell you much about the stunt
you would read more than I could tell you
But dont worry I am quite well and will come through all right.
My cobber has a stripe
Wally is still in the hospital
I hope he stays there for a while
he is a married man with three or four kids
and my other cobber is married
So you can see I get about with the old heads
They are a good bit older than I am

I have not received any parcles yet
Dora sent one
Dont send any more dear
it is not much good if I dont get them
it would be alright if someone got them
someone that needs them
But I think they must stay in the Post Office

Well dear I will close now
Hope this will find you in the verry best of health as I am at present
give my love to all

Good Bye dear
I am your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Dont Worry I am all Right xxx

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

Dartmouth
3AA Hospital

3.10.17

My Dear Mother

I am sitting up for awhile now feeling much better they have taken the tube out for good now and the wound as almost healed but I suffer with my head still.
It was a very narrow escape so they tell me -- a 1/16 of an inch more and I should have been pushing up the daisies in France instead of now waiting to be sent home when they see fit I was -- and they have marked me c/2 which means home-service in Ausy I would as soon stay here if it was not that I dread the winter for I feel sure I shall go down again
I may come home for 6 months and come back again
What I am most anoyed of that I stopped one so soon I was the first one wounded in our company it was on the 15 of August East of Ypres at midnight there were only two lorries loaded with fuses taking them to another battery which had run short.
The other lorrie got bogged and we had just pulled him out and I was putting my load ready when a high explosive shell burst between us I was in a bent position shifting a case of fuses otherwise it would have caught me in the body
I lost a deal of blood which left me very weak and I could not keep anything upon my stomach for 8 days
to make matters worse this is my third shift to different hospitals and when taking me out of the ambulance to put me in the train they let me drop which shook me up.
The Dr was cross at them shifting me at al as it put me back a lot This is an Ausy Hospital and they were having a rounding up of all the boys from all the Imperial Hospt
There are 40 seperate ward here with 46 in each ward it is rough and ready to the V.A.D. or Imperial Hospt and would be a bad place in the winter being so low lying.
There are 2000 men here at present
some of them are sad to look at but they are all merry and bright
The boy in the bed on my left as lost his left leg, has only 1 1/2 left
The one on my right as been burnt very bad with mustard gass inside and out he was blind for 7 days
there are a lot of these gass cases, but the Dr is treating them very differant now
I sure Fritz is sorry that ever he started using gass for ours is 50 times more deadly than his and we don't spare it, but he is very cunning
he don't wait long enough for it to be used in cloud form so we have to depend upon the shells of which we have plenty.
We have been having a few visits from Fritz in the air but the damage as not been too bad so far
Well Mother I recived yours and Dora's letter a few days ago it was the first I had recived for three months from home and have not recived a parcel at al
I seem to have hard luck with parcells

I asked them to send a few things over from France but they are not to hand yet worst luck for I brought nothing over with me only the few things that were in my pockets they put into a small bag at the dressing station

I had a few things to send home

amongst them was a hand made lace collar which I paid 14 franks for silk one

I saw the Flemish women making them close to our Park and thought one would suit you so I ordered one they made them very fast.

They have a board half round in front of them and a lot of bobbins with the silk on and they start throwing them about from left to right and from right to left sticking pins up here and there and before long you see the pattern forming

Mother let me know if you received the quilt which I sent from Manchester when on leave

I think I shall have a run to Scotland this time all being well if I get strong in time

I am entitled to 14 days and 1/2 journey paid

4/- a day for provisions

so its not so bad

Now Mother dear I must close with love to you all and hoping things are going good with the boys.

Write soon and let me know how things are going

Your ever affectionate son

Ben.

Ben was cleared for return to Australia on 20 December 1917 suffering a compound fractured skull.
He was honourably discharged from service on 23 March 1918.

France

Dec 31 1917

My Dearest Mother

Well dear this is the last night of the new year
I suppose the bells are ringing the old year out and the new one in
I would like to be there
Last new years day I was well at sea

I have not had any mail for a while
I may get some tomorrow when I go down to the camp
I had one from Ben about 13 days ago
I expect one from him tomorrow.

I am going to put in for Paris leaf soon.
They tell me it is a great place
My cobbler that I was waiting for to go with has gone to the hospital with
trench fever.
he may not be long away
he may get to Blighty ---- if he is lucky.

I suppose things are pretty busy now.
How did conscription go.
I hear they did not get it
good thing too
I suppose the strike is over by this
Is Father back yet
What does he think of the place now
Tell him to write
I have only had one letter from him since I left
And for Philip I have had none
I have wrote to them all pretty often
I expect one from Rose any time now.
Did you get the Xmas cards all right.

We have had a little snow but a lot of frost
it is pretty cold on the feet and hands
The wind is verry cold
We cannot growl
We are having verry good weather for this time of the year.
so long as the rain keeps off I dont care

How is the fishing going
pretty good I hope.
How are the little ones keeping
Has Barny been to Denmark of late
How are things out there?
How are the horses?
How is Lara and little ones keeping?
How is Arthur?
is he still at the Base?
I dont think they will send him over hear again
There is some peace talk on
I dont know what it is
I suppose only talk.

How is Mrs O.C. [?]
I have not heard from her yet
I wrote to Clive and Geoffore the other day.
They are well
I have not seen Ray yet
he is in the 3 Div 39 Batt

I still have the old pen mum
I am writing with it now

Hoping this will find you in the very best of health as it leaves me at
present
kiss the little ones for me
Give my love to all at home
so Good Bye dear
With love and kisses from your ever loving son

Ted

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxx

xxxxxx

Dont Worry

France

6.2.1918

My Dearest Mother

just a few lines dear to let you know I am well
Hoping this will find you the same.
We are still having good weather and plenty of drill.
It is a ----- day today
They are playing football.
I have been pretty bad with my teeth
I have had some out
I had to walk about 20 miles to get them out
I got lost and walked all over France
I have to go down in two weeks time and get a plate put in
I have no teeth on the right side now
I am going to get some in.

I am pleased that Jack got that job
I put in for Paris leaf
Goodness knows when I will get it
I will soon be going to England
I am sending to you for some money
I was going to send it today
but did not have enough money to send it there way
you can not send it as you like
so will send it next pay.

What is George Harris in do you know.
I dont think it will last much longer
I will be pleased to be with you again
so cheer up dear it wont be long
I surpose the little ones are all growing big girls now
How is little Vic
can he speak yet
I got No 18, 19, 20 and 21 letters from you this mail
and the card
it is very nice
Yes dear it is pretty muddy at times
But that is nothing mum

dont give any thing to the Red Cross for me
if you want to send a parcel dont give them the money
send the parcel yourself
they are fr---s

[frauds?]

Yes I suppose you will have some long walks down there now
But they will do you good to walk down
and put the hard word on them for a car home
it is only three bob

Well dear I will close now
so Good Bye dear
love to all at home
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

XXXX

XXXXX

XXXXX

Dont Worry

London

March

1.3.1918

My Dear Mother

just a few lines Dear to let you know I am well and having a good time
My friend takes me every where and wont let me spend to much
so you can see I am in company with her
She is a verry nice girl
I go up to there home
her mother is dead
and only brother was killed about two years ago in France
just her father and sister she is a nice girl too
I got to know them last time I was hear and have been writing ever since
I gave them a great surprise
when I came over I went up to there home
she could not speak for the minute
and I also got a great surprise
this morning just as I got out of bed there came a knock at my door
and I opened it and a young chap came in and said is your name Mouchemore?
I said yes.
he said from Albany, Ted is it.
it was young Burt Mouchemore
he come to book a bed and the lassie? said you booked last night No 33
he said no
she said your name is hear
he said it must be a cousin
he is on six days leaf from ---
in England he is in a b---

I have not seen Geoff or Clive yet but will see them this week.
it is raining today and verry cold.
We are going to Brighton for a day tomorrow if it is fine.
Things are verry diar over hear and not much sugar
they only get half a pound a week
you see them lining up for the sugar and meat
it is fun to watch the old girls
you would laugh to see me over hear getting lost
if I am going to meet Mabel anywhere in the town I have to leave an hour
before time
if I am going up to the home I get in the Tube or bus
They only cost a penny
it will be hard to take when I have to go back.
I will get my photo taken this week.
What do you think I way 11 stone 3
so you can see I am looking well
the girls tell me I have got fater and grown taller and stouter
I feel a big jint [giant] beside Mabel
she is only a little girl
I can put her under my wing.

How are things home
How is Ben keeping and Arthur
Give my love to them all at home

How is the strike
is it over yet
Well Darling I will ring off now
Give my love to all at home
Good Bye dear
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted
xxxxxxx

Dont Worry

London

March
13.3.18

My Dear Mother

just afew lines Dear to let you know I am in the verry best of health
Well dear this is my last days leave
I go back in the morning at 7.30 to Dover
and across to --- in France
and then about three days in the train.
I have had a real good time
I went and seen Geoff
I was going up to see Clive
but Dear it cost so much
I tryed to travel on my pass but could not
It cost me 30 shillings to go down to Geoff
and would cost me about three times as much to go and see Clive
So I will have to tell them a few lies I surpose
he will be cross but it cannot be helped
I will see him next time I come over

I had my photo taken
I will have to have them sent over
I have been down to Brighton for a few days
it is a verry pretty little place and quiet
I had a good time there
I have been living on fish and eggs
eggs are 5/- a dozen 5d each
Things are verry dear
if you go into a place for a meal you cannot have more than 1/2 worth
and I want about a dozen feeds like that to --- a --- up
Last night for my tea? I got one sosage and a spud on a bit of onion
and a cup of tea and little bit of bread
I come out of there and went to another
had two eggs and two rounds of bread and tea
and then I was not full
I can eat pretty good now.

They tell me I have grown a lot and got stouter and fater
I know I have myself
you wont know your little son when he comes home
I often think when they used to call me little
But I think I am pretty big now.
I feel big beside my girl friend ---
They are verry nice people
There are some nice people hear
But some rotters too.
Well dear I will ring off now
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted
xxxxx
xxxxxxxxx
xx

Dont Worry

France

March

16.3.1918

My Dearest Mother

just a few lines dear to let you know I am o.k.
Well dear I received your letter last night when I got back with the batt.
I can tell you it is hard to take coming back hear after 14 days in Blighty
Yes Mother young Burt told me about Jack
I think I told you how I met him

I am pleased the horses are alright
I wish I was there for a ride
it would do me now
Let us hope it wont be long now
They are going to give leave every six months now
But I hope I am there before that

It was verry hard leaving there
just like leaving home
I suppose Ben is home by this
How is he
I must write to him.

I am glad you are having some good weather there at last
We are having some good weather hear now
a bit of frost in the mornings[?]
How is the fishing going
good I hope
Tell them I will write to all soon
I will have to get my head down one of these days
But it is a busy time now
My cobber is away at a school for a few days.

They had two raids in London while I was there
I did not get out of my bed
They were calling me down but it was to good to leave
I was verry tired
The tubes were all full and peopel runing every where
all you can see is Australians in the streets
the people say we are mad
if they are with any of us they are right
they are not frighten of it

Brighton is a fine little place
a seaside town
plenty of fish
there is a lot of people get there in the summer
and they have no raids there now.
out of the way of the raids.

Well Dear I will say Good Bye
Give my love to all
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxx

Dont Worry

France

March

21.3.18

My Dearest Mother

just a few lines

Hoping this will find you in the best of health as I am at present.

This is verry hard to take after been on leave

I have not got my photos yet but will get them any time now and send them on.

We are having some verry good weather now

it is too good.

I surpose Ben is well home by this

and how is he looking

I wish I was with him

How is the fishing going

I hope it is pretty good

What does Father think of that place down the coast

is it any good

How does Ruth and Jack like there new job

Is Jack Ralph still there?

is he married yet.

I had a good dream last night and was home again

everything was so plain

I was going down the street with you

when the guns woke me up

it was hard to take

I hope it wont be long before I am there now.

How are all the little ones

Give my love to them for me

I would like to be with them all now

I dont surpose I will know them when I get back

Well dear I will ring off now

Good Night dear

With love and kisses from your ever loving son

Ted

xxxxxx

xxxxxx

xx

Dont Worry

Ted was shot in the left arm on 16 April 1918. He was admitted to hospital in France three days later.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

France

April 19 1918

My Dearest Mother

just a few lines dear to let you know I am going on well
I surpose you have heard by this that I am wounded
I got hit on the left elbow by a bullet
it went threw so I did not stop it
I got your letter the night I got knocked but did not read it till I got
hear

I hope to be going to Blighty any time
I can tell you it is good to be in bed
and we are being well looked after
all Aussi sisters too

I surpose Ben is home by this
How does he look
I am pleased to hear that Barney is about again
he must of had a bad time of it.
How are things looking over that way now
It has been pretty cold hear
it was snowing a bit the other day

My cobber was wounded the same time as me
he is pretty good
I have not seen him since we come hear.
I have been operated on twice now
I dont think there will be any more
I hope not
I dont like being put to sleep.

So little Dora is going to school
I hope she will like it.

I was verry sorry to read about Miss Burrage
she was a verry nice girl
Does Ruth like been at the station now
it is verry pretty down there
she is hard to please.

It is verry funny but I had a dream in the front line that I was home
and Ruth had a little daughter
and now I get your letter saying about it
I hope I am there before long
I may be
I cannot give you my address yet
I may be leaving this hospital any time for Blighty
I hope so

How is Father keeping
I think he mite write
and I have not heard from Philip yet
Tell Barney I will write as soon as I get setteled down
What does Father think of that place down the coast

is it any good
I hope it is

Well Dear I will ring off now
Hoping this will find you in the best of health as I am
Give my love to all at home
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

France
Third Australian
General Hospital

April 27 1918

My Dear Mother

just a few lines dear to let you know I am getting on well
We have been having some good weather of late.
The boys had some verry good sports hear ANZAC day.
I got up that day
went to church in the morning and the sports in the afternoon
They were verry good indeed
There were a lot of W.A.A.C. girls up hear
they had a few races too
and I went to the concet that night
it was verry good
I had a good days enjoyment
I was verry tired that night
I had been in bed 12 days
I felt weak on it
I am marked up for England

There are not many in this hospital now
We are well looked after
everything we need you can get
anything just for asking
I have not had any better since I came hear
I wont get any for a while

Mum will you send me some money just as you did before
I will get it all right
I will write to them and tell them I expect it
and give them my right address
you address it to the batt just as you did last time
I wont have enough money to send a cable
I only have ten franks
I dont think that will send it

How is everybody at home and the little ones
I would like to be with them now
Give them my love.
How is the fishing going
good I hope
is Barney quite better
How does Ben look
Vera told me she see Ben's name in the paper
and said that there were some hospital ships expected in
So I surpose he was one one
I would of liked to of seen him before he left
I was verry close to him at times and did not know he was there
I see --- Edwards once and went back that night to find him
but could not
they were away and we marched off next day

I surpose it will be getting a bit cold over there now
are the boys still in the forts
I wished I had of stayed there
They have had a good time of it
I think I would of been getting my ten bob a day there if I had of stayed.

Well dear I will close now
there is no news hear
Give my love to all at home
kiss the little ones for me
Tell them I will write soon
Good Bye dear
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

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XXXXXXXXXXXX

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Ted was transferred to England ("Blighty") on 1 May 1918. He was admitted to the Norfolk War Hospital in Thorpe, Norwich on 3 May 1918.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

May
4.5.1918

My Dear Mother

just a few lines dear to let you know I arrived safe in England
I left France May the first
I got hear last night at about 8.30
There were a lot of people on the station when we landed
gave us a nice cup of cofe
and I was the only wounded one in the car
it was private one and they made a bit of a fus and gave me some choclote
The others had been ill
You have no need to worry
I am all right
I got it in the left elbow
I dont know if it will be stif or not
I have been under two operations
it is healing verry quick
The Dr hear had a look at it to day
I have to have it massarge
and have to go under exrase [X-rays] now
the main sinyew is verry tight and hard
I cannot bend it to much or straten it yet

It was a bullet wound
I got it about 9 p.m. on April 15.
and my pall got one too
he dressed me and I dressed him
We walked about looking for the dressing station till two that night
We come across some pommies camp in an old house
We stayed there that night until about 7 the next morning
There were some Aussis there
one jumped on a horse and went and got a car
and it took us to a dressing station
my arm was like a football
But I am verry lucky to be hear

I was the only West in the ward in France
and one of the sisters came up to my bed
and ask me where I came from
I told her the West and said I think I am the only one in hear
she patted me on the cheek and said no fear you and I come from there
she was verry good to me
looked after me well
when I was coming away seen that I was warm
and raped [wrapped] me up
and seen that I had plenty of smokes and gave me some chocolate
So you see I am not doing to bad

Well dear it would be better if it was in Ausie
It would do me
Well dear Good Bye
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxx

keep writing to the Batt
Dont Worry

xxxxxx
xxxxxxxx

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

Norfolk War Hospital
Thorpe, Norwich
k Ward

Dont write to this place
to the Batt

May
9.5.1918

My Darling Mother

just a few more lines darling to let you know that I am getting on A.1.
My arm is just about healed up now
But I will not get the use of it for a while yet
I cannot straighten it or bend it right up
I will be getting it massarge soon I surpose
the mane sinu is verry hard and tight
My word dear I would like to get home with it
I would be the happiest man on earth

I am up walking round
We went down town the other day
it is three miles away
I sent the cabel to you
a funny way I sent it
Well dear I will tell you why
I did not have much money and I wanted some smokes
I got them and I just had enough to send seven words
and that is how I sent it
I had to put my name in
we get 3/6 a week
I am waiting for it to come round for some more smokes

You dont worry dear
my wound is nothing now
I would not like to say I will get home
and wont say I will go back to France
There will be no telling for a while
see how the massarge goes
I can work my fingers and rist now
but they are puffed up yet

I wrote to Geoff
he is well
also Clive
They tell me Ben is home
I am pleased to hear it
I hope he is well
I must write to him
How is Arthur keeping
and all at home and little ones
give them all my love
Tell them not to worry over me.

I am just having my tea
if you can call it one
4 little bits of bread
By word Mum if I get home you will have to kill the fatted calf

for I am sure I could eat one
I am not a small eater now
I can eat a good feed
But you cannot get it over this part of the world.

There is one chap hear pretty bad
his wife or sister or some one come up and stays all day and feeds him
he does not know them.
I have made a pall hear
he is a Scotty
he allso has a bad left arm
You would laugh to see us two barthing each other and shaving one another.

We are having some lovely weather hear
Like Australian summer
tray bon [tres bon]
I am 117 miles from London
I would like to be there
I have a friend there

Well dear I have just about finished my tea
and would like three times as much
I will ring off now love as there is no news
Give my love to all
Good Bye darling
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

No. 6351
Pte E.C. Mouchemore
28th Battalion
AIF

K ward
Norfolk War Hospital

May
15.5.1918

My Dearest Mother

your ever welcom letters to hand dear
and one from the commonwealth
I am pleased to know you are all well and Ben got home alright.
thanks verry much for sending the money
I did not expect it after the last lot
and now I have sent another cabel
I hope you dont send any more

Well Mum I think I will be unlucky
I dont think I will get home out of this wound yet
it will be a while before I get it strong
I am getting it massarged every day
the sister tells me I will have to carry waits
she said I have a nice time to come
so you know what that is
and they are going to put a vierbrater on to it
I dont know what that is like
but will soon know

I got a letter from Ben Barney Ruth
He writes French in some places I think
and what did you think of the Denmark show dear
Was it any good
I would of liked to of been there
So Jack Ralph is married
I bet it was fun
did you see it
Barney did not go
he tells me the boys are still in the forts
What a good job I missed 9 and six a day
I was sure of stripes too
never mind I have seen a bit of the world

you are allways asking me am I geting enough food
To tell you the truth we got more in France than we get hear
But it is not to bad
dinner is the only meal.

I am going to try and work my head a bit
see if I can not get home or some where
They are sending a lot home now
But I dont surpose I will have any luck
I am sorry Arthur hurt himself again

How is all at home and the little ones
give them all my love
Tell them to write
By word mum I would not half like some of those fish
We get what you call B---- hear and they are all bones and rotten
something like Perth herin[?].
We are having some lovely weather now
just like summer at home
Barney tells me that they have broke that little mare in for me
I wish I had her hear
I could do a good ride now.
We have two meatless days a week [?]
one today
Clive sent me down some smokes the other day
they were just what I wanted

Well dear I will say good bye now
With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxx

x

Y.M.C.A.

Norfolk War Hospital
Thorpe Norwich

May
22.5.1918

My Darling Nother

just a few lines love to let you know I am getting on well
my arm is pretty right now
Well dear Clive came down last Sunday and Monday
We had a great talk
went out monday morning
he came up
I went out at 12- [?]
and he took me to an hotel for dinner
a four course
everything was flash
I --- lost [?]
he gave me some smokes
he has been verry good to me
sends smokes down
When I get my leave I will pay him back
and yesterday I went out for the afternoon
two of the lads hear asked me if I would go with them
I went and had a fine time
there was an old lady
she paid for us to go in the pictures and kept seats for us
gave us smokes when we got in
and after we came out got on a tram and took us home
she had a lovely place just her and her m----
she is a lady 50 or 60 [?]
she is indperdent
she has an officer and a sinin--- ---- [?]
she was a verry nice old lady
gave us a lovely tea the best tea I have had since I left home
she ask what was wrong with us and our ages
I was the youngest
Poor boy you are too young to be fighting

We put in for a pass till 9.30
they would not give it to us so we took it
got in at ten
we should have been in at 7
I surpouse there will be a row this morning
my troubles.

Well dear we are having some lovely weather
it is verry hot
I dont think it will be verry long before I am out of hear
I cannot straighten my arm right out yet or twist it round
I dont think I will get home out of it
Wish I could

There were a few more come in last night
There has been a lot of people up hear

it has been hollerdays
there is a river not far from hear
they get around that.

How is all at home
How is Arthur and Ben keeping.
How is the fishing
I wish I was there for a good feed of them
I can picture old times but never mind it wont be long before I am there
again.

If I do go back to France I wont stay long
I will get out [?] I bet
Dont worry love Ill be alright
leave it to me

Well dear give my love to all at home
kiss the little ones for me

Bye Bye

With love and kisses from your ever loving son
Ted

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX

XXXXXX

XXXXXX

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X

I have just received an Australian paper from a Mrs Wilsmore that wrote to
me from London
she knows Ben
she is a West Australian

THE SALVATION ARMY
Recreation and Reading Room
for His Majesty's Troops

No 6351
Company B
Battalion 28

Aug
12.8.1918

My Dear Mother

just a few lines dear to let you know I am A.1.
Well dear I am at the O.T.B.[?] now
I went there yesterday
I have been ducking and diving about ever since
I went there to miss guard and p-----
I went on church parade this morning
as soon as it was over I hopped it down hear to No. 1
I will be there about three weeks and to France again

I received a few letters from you and Vera and Ben and Lara last week
I was more than pleased to get them
Thanks verry much for letting Vera know about me
She as not been to well
She worry a lot
I wish I could get back there
But it wont be long now dear
Bye the way did you ever get my cabel from hospital telling you I was
wounded and asking for money
it has gone nearly 4 months now
I was wishing the money would come to light
I want to go on a few days leave before I go back
The next time I come to England I am going to Scotland
and try to get to Iland [Ireland]
I have seen a good lot of England now
Mum will you please try and send me some socks
also Mum send about 20 pound
you will think I am spending a lot of money
but I am having a good time and a good look round
you have to pay verry dear for everything
I will put a few more photos in this letter for you and the girls

We are having some pretty good weather of late
Did you ever hear what became of Jimmy Hopson
he was in my Bat
he went in the line his first time
and I have not heard of him since
he was not in my Coy.
How is Don Waters
I hear he is dead thin [?] since he went home
he was over hear no time

How is all at home
give them all my love
and kiss the little ones for me
I dont surpose I will know them when I get back

