

Thursday January 18/16
Whitley Camp.
Surrey Eng.

Dear Mother Father & Carrie

This is the first opportunity this week that I have had to write, we are Brigade duty Battalion this week and as we only have about 750 men it keeps us on duty most of the time.

I received a letter from Home and also one from Carrie and believe me I was glad to hear from Home.

Murray is still instructing Musketry and is at present at Mitchell Ranges. I am in charge of the Hut while he is away and have not had much time to be lonely although I miss him just the same.

I expect to be made a Blooming Lance again soon and I am not very much elated over the idea as I considered myself lucky when I reported to the Ranks. On January 28th I expect to go to Aldershot for a week to take an advanced course in Range finding.

There has not been anything new
or exciting happening here since I wrote
my last letter except that my diary
is a week behind again. The mail
has been very irregular here lately
sometimes a week goes by and I do not
get any, then again I get about a dozen
in a bunch. I have not had any
parcels lately but am expecting
some soon, I do not know where I
will be when I get an answer to
this letter but fully expect to be
here and I need some money, if you
would just draw \$5 for me I will be
lucky I have enough money for
general purposes but have not yet
given up hopes of getting a pass to
Scotland. so if you will send it as
soon as you get this it might come
in handy. "Now for the diary"
Sunday January 14/16 up as per
usual Church Parade as usual
Murray left at 6³⁰ this is the fifth
Sunday out of the last seven that
Murray has had to work pretty
tough luck. A bunch of us walked
to Godalming in the afternoon it
was a dull cold day and no sun

we had our supper in Godalming, and believe me I am beginning to like Godalming as much as I do the rest. of it here. We came back early and went to bed.

Monday January 15/19 up as per Physical drill & Bayonet fighting from near until 4³⁰ we had M.G. work I had another class and we got along fine at 5³⁰ I went on a quarantine guard and did not finish until 11 P.M. and of course went to bed smartly.

Tuesday January 16/19 up as per we were issued with Gas masks and taken down to the Gas School. we went in a Hut where we had a lecture on Gases, masks, Respirators etc, while we were there we had our first experience with weeping Gas the Instructor put $\frac{1}{2}$ tea spoonful on the stove and it was not very long before we were driven outside weeping. The German shells hold about 3 pts of this same stuff as you can see. But we are issued with Goggles for this. The after effects are not serious. But believe me it makes

your eyes smart, we were then lined up in two files and told to inspect our Gas Helmets and believe me we did inspect them. We were then marched over to the trenches where we had to go through live gas, it was just as strong as the Germans use when we came out our Buttons and all our Brass was green, it was done all think to give us confidence in our Helmets and it proved to me anyway that they were gas proof. In the afternoon we were on Mustety and we had to fall in again at 5³⁰ for Pickett and believe me that is the most tiring job I have struck for a good many moons we got in about 12 P.M. and again it was not very long crawling in.

Wednesday January 17/17
up as per and believe me these late hours are pretty hard when the come cold Buzh Blow @ 6³⁰ we had to fall in at 8 A.M. fatigue for Thursday Commons, Tearing down trenches slugging lumber etc it was a hard

day and when we got back to Camp
we were politely told we had to go
on Pickett again @ 5³⁰. I felt about
sure we were all sore. But we
had to go just the same, it was
11³⁰ when we got Home and we were
all so tired, we did not even read
our mail and that is about the
one Bright spot in our line.

Thursday January 15/16
We had to get up at the same time
and right off the reel they gave us 2 hrs
Physical drill & Bayonet fighting
I am afraid we pretty nearly broke
the instructors heard as everything
was done sloppy. answer "No life"
at 11³⁰ we paraded to the cook House
where we were issued with Meat,
Potatoes, Beans, Onions & Bread.
We marched to Thurlay Barracks
where we had to build fires & cook
our own dinner in our mess tents
& Believe me people I am some Cook
it tasted all fake anyway, and we
had a pretty good time, we are
warned for fatigue @ 7³⁰ AM to-morrow
but are off to-night so I am making

The Best of it

Well dears I guess I will have
to pull the pin now I am feeling
pretty good although tired and
hope you are all well

Remember me to all

Bob.