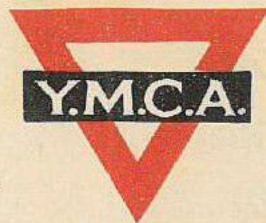


On Active Service



THE Y.M.C.A.  
WITH H.M. TROOPS



From.....

Batt. .... Reg't. .... Coy. ....

Address reply to .....

191

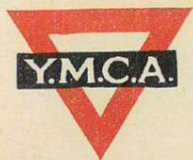
*S. James 657  
Welsh Guards  
Guards Depot  
Catterham  
Sussex*

*Thurs. May 7<sup>th</sup> 15.*

*Dear Mother,*

*I have just received your parcel of cakes. They arrived in good condition and my mouth fairly watered when I opened it. I also received a parcel yesterday. It was a regular confectioner shop. I don't know who sent it, as there was no letter with it, but I expect it was you. I am very grateful for all these things being sent me. I shall have a good supper to night. I don't know what has come over me to day and yesterday, my luck was dead in. Up to then I had not received any parcels. I expect the tobacco & shoes dad sent me. Yesterday I had the sweets and some cakes and cigars from my girl, and to day*





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Batt. \_\_\_\_\_ Reg't. \_\_\_\_\_ Coy. \_\_\_\_\_  
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191

my face, the skin is beginning to peel off it now.

We are on with our rifle drill now, and I am very interested in it and am picking it up fine. We have not had our proper rifles yet, and have got the old Lee Metford to play with until we get to the Battalion. We are having all our equipment shortly, and will be going out in the country to practise field work, and there is some fine country here too, an ideal place to spend an holiday.

Last Saturday night we could see the searchlights playing in the sky. It was a glorious night and the effect was wonderful, they were at London 20 miles away. We see balloons and aeroplanes very often, an aeroplane has just passed over the barracks about a quarter of an hour ago, and there were two over here this morning, we want to see a Zeppelin now. There are a fine lot of chaps coming into the Welsh Guard lately. I hear that they won't take them over

I had your cables, I don't know really where to put them all. I have put them under my bed. I hope the Officer coming round to inspect the Tents in the morning won't look under my bed, of course I am going to share them with my pals. We are only 4 in our tent.

I hope you are all well at home, how did Jack look. The time is drawing near now, when I will be home. I want to be home when Lotty is home. I have been thinking a lot about her this last week. I hope she is all right, have you heard from her lately? I have written to her twice since I have been at Balesham but have had no reply from her. I wrote to about Winnie this week.

I am settling down to my new life now, and am getting on fine. I am in excellent health and have not suffered from any complaint this long time. My feet are fine and don't give me any trouble whatever, and that means a lot. I have also kept a clean sheet so far, which is a very difficult thing to do here, there is so many small rules and regulations to adhere to.

Our food is improving too, and to day I had a dinner that I was thoroughly satisfied with. I sleep like a top, and don't see anything in getting up at 6 in the morning. I am asleep every night before 10 o'clock, and very often sleep right through the night. It is nice to have no responsibilities to worry me. We are having very warm weather, and the sun is playing havoc with



~~now~~ now 25 years from now. I am going to the cinema  
now. I have a letter here, so I will conclude with  
love. I hope Billy and Win are well and  
give my best regards to dad.

Your loving son  
David