

I
D. James, 657
13 Platoon No. 4 Coy.
1st Batt. Welsh Guards.
B. E. F.

Sat. Nov. 6th 1915.

France

Dear Dad.

I am in receipt of your letter of Oct 31st - and am very pleased to hear that Jack is home with you, I only wish I was as fortunate. I have not had Mother's parcel yet, I am looking forward to every post, and sincerely hope that to-days will bring me some luck.

We are still in the same position as when I wrote home last, and I have no news worth speaking about. I am enjoying the rest fine, so are we all as far as that goes. We get ripping feeds here, Fried-potatoes, eggs and Coffee, being a big favourite with all the chaps, Eggs are a bit expensive out here, 3 each, the coffee

is the finest I ever tasted, especially when there's a drop of rum in it.

The weather is getting a bit nippy now, and we are being pushed out with warm comforts, ready by the time we go back in again. We have had mittens, scarfs, gloves, and leather coats given us, the leather coats are fine, we all look like a lot of motor drivers, when we have them on! I think we are having mackintosh capes, again, the Grenadier's have them, so I will expect we'll get them soon.

I am sleeping on straw, and sleep very well, we have a blanket each, and our top coats, and use our packs for pillows, so we manage to keep warm all right. We turn in about 8 to 8.30 pm. and reveillie is between 6 and 7 in the morning, so you see we get plenty of sleep while here.

The regimental band of the Grenadier, (the one that came to Perth's some

years ago) is out here, and we get some excellent concerts, I went to one last night, of course our Glee party performed, and gave a very good account of itself.

This morning we had a nice little route march of about 10 miles. It was an ideal morning for it, and we had our drum and fife band to accompany us. I quite enjoyed it, we passed through several pretty villages, and you should see all the people turn out to look at us. They are great admirers of our troops, and say "Anglais soldier, plenty swank", they also say "Anglais soldat plenty money", when you want to buy anything, and they don't forget to put the price on either. I know my five francs soon goes.

There are a lot of large Collieries around us, and unlike South Wales, they are very clean and up to date, our pits would look very desreptitable alongside them. They are all fitted with baths for the men, we use them too, I have already had two fine

Foot baths in them.

It is very cold here today, I have great difficulty to hold the pencil, leave alone writing, I bet the chaps up the line don't feel so cushy either, I know what its like now, as I have had a taste of it, and am looking forward to some freezing times when we go back in again, which won't be long I expect.

You remember me talking of Vic Letman, who was my best friend at Caterham, well he has gone under, poor chap. He got it pretty bad about a fortnight ago, and I have just heard that he has died in hospital. He leaves a wife and two kiddies at home.

I remember Sanby, I think he was in our platoon, but don't remember him being wounded. I believe he went to hospital with a bad foot just before we went into action, I did not think he would go home. ~~I don't~~ though, I expect he remembers me,

I received a surprise letter from Uncle Tom the day before yesterday. He told me that you had given your name in for a special constable, I am very glad to hear it, and hope you will like the job, you will probably find it very cold as the winter is coming on.

I have no doubt that the chairs at home who have not yet enlisted, find things rather uncomfortable. I am surprised to hear that they intend employing girls in the office, you will probably find that they will shape all right, if they do employ them.

I have not much more to write about now. I trust that Mother is well, and that the rest is the same, give my love to all, and tell Win and Billy that I will send some more post-cards, so I will conclude now, hoping to hear from you soon.

Your affectionate Son
David