

No 1189
24th June 20th
Dickson H
Battr
A. if name

France

12th June 1916

P.S. Just been chewing
one of Emmie's Bught
Lumps

Dear Mr & Mrs Baker,

Here we are again.

Arrived home last Thursday morning after a most enjoyable stay in the City of London. Found Ernest quite well but awfully fat, in fact he is taking to cycling to keep off condition. He is in excellent humour today, having received mail from home, also from his wife.

Kindly accept an apology from Mr Thomson (Tom) & myself for failing to ring you up before leaving the City. It was our good intention to do so, but owing to an appointment & some hurried business on Tom's part, we found it was too late. However, I must say, we will never forget the Motherly welcome you gave us & only hope it is our luck to see once again. We never tire of speaking of the feed we had, Billy Jones is just the same. I have been a little off color since my return but today I am feeling quite ok & hope to be myself quite soon. After seeing you my health was good during our stay in London, in fact I blame the big dinner for fixing me up. I have not seen Tom or Roy Armstrong since my return, as Emmie goes with the rations at present, my turn comes next week. Our trip home was a sad & dreary

one for all the boys returning from leave, this is quite natural as you will agree. However, I have settled down again, but it took some doing.

Today is wet & cold, so Ern & I have just finished fitting our stove in the hut. We had it outside when the weather was hot, but we won't go to that trouble any more.

Everything is lovely & green now, the crops are quite high, it seems a pity there is any war. We missed Newmarket Races after all, slept in too late, Gee we were wild. We had a nice day at Richmond & Kew Gardens. Had a boat on the River, met two wounded Australians & took them for a row. So you see we were quite good boys, I suppose the girls would say we were mean.

We also saw the Tower of London, St. Pauls & numerous other places. We were quite experts at finding our way about with the assistance of the tubes. We felt quite downhearted when we heard that Lord Kitch was drowned. It was sad to think he went so soon & just when he was wanted. It is now.

3.30 pm & Ernest is asleep, he generally has 40 winks in the afternoons. "When is peace coming along?" I suppose you will know sooner than we.

I suppose you heard about some of the lust boys making a raid on the Germans, yes they brought back some prisoners with them. Never lost one of our boys. hurrah?

Well I will close now. Give my kind regards to Miss Baker, & tell her I will try harder to sing next time I get home to England. Kindest regards to Mother & Father from
one of the boys, *Herb S. Dickson*