

PERSONAL RECORDS.

~~4/23~~

4/27

4/13

WAR OF 1914-18

CORPORAL R.E. ANTILL.
14th Battalion. A.I.F.

Original Letters.
3/8/14 - 20/6/17.
16/1/17 - 20/6/17

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For God, For King & For Country



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL.
H.M. THE KING.

Y.M.C.A.

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE



PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to 1228 Company _____ Bat 14 Regt. _____
Stationed at No 1 Command Depot 16 1 1917

Dear Mother & Father
Received Dolly's letter yesterday evening & as she says it is rather a long one since you heard from me, well I am doing very well & in the best of health. I quite forgot yesterday was Elsie's birth day until the day was nearly over. My word she is getting quite old. I have still charge of this B hut for a fatigue party & I can tell you its not a bad job I have nothing to do all day.
I should be very pleased if Father would come down to have a look at us here it will not be a very enjoyable trip for him

For God. For King & For Country



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL.
H. M. THE KING.

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H. M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE



PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H. R. H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bar _____ Regt. _____

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Stationed at _____

but I can tell you the chaps
here would be very pleased with
a bottle of strong stuff for we
cant buy it here so I think if
you brought a bottle with you
it would be very acceptable
Well as regards to the day, any
day this or next week will suit
me down to the ground so come as
soon as you like only drop me a
liney & let me now you are coming
& I will meet you at Tichworth
station. Well I will now draw to a
close hoping this finds you one
& all in the best

I remain
Yours loving Son
B. L.

No I Command Depot
Perham Downs
Via Andover
Hants.

30 1 1917.

Dear Mother & Father,

I am having a day
off to day & I am feeling pretty rotten
off it, I thought I was going on to well
with this awful cold weather, well at
last I have come a cropper I have a
cold on me & it is the worst one I
have ever had or ever hope to have
it has got down on my chest & as
sit here & write I almost have
to struggle for my breath.
Last night I got Darby to rub my
chest & back with camphorated oil
& I am glad to say it eased me a
great deal & the sooner it leaves
me the better for I am feeling
just any how at the present moment

After Dad went the chaps here
came up to me & passed their different
opinions & they all recon you were a
local Brekton to put up with the
row they made at night
I played in the billiard match & the
fellow I played just beat me & said
the he he could beat me quite easily
any other time we were both scratch
& in the end he beat me by 9, well
I will now close hoping you & all
are well at home

I remain
your very loving son
Bob.

Reg No 1228 14 Bn. G. L. F.
D of No 5 Command Depot
Peigham Down
Via Andover
Hants.

9. 2. 1917.

Dear Mother
I am just dropping
you this short note to let Papa
know I am still in the land of
the living but only just, I am
just feeling dead, queer & my
throat is more than sore & very
painful
I have had the last 3 days in
bed & I think I have just about
shaken the cold off but am feel
crook all over but there I
suppose I shall get better in time
any way I have started eating
again so I think I must be
improving.
We have had very heavy

falls of snow here in the last
few days & the cold just
goes right through one
Well I don't think I will write
any more just hop straight into
bed for I think its fair to
hopely this fine a fan one
all in the very best

I remain

Your very loving son

Bob



Reg No 1228 14 Batta.
The I Command Depot
Perham Downs
Via Anclote,
Hants

Feb 25
1919.

Dear Mother & Father,

It is quite a time since I wrote to you & the reason I have kept holding back is because I have been expecting marching orders to. Strange it was about a week ago I arrived home from Tidworth & was warned for gholerly room at once & there I learned our fate the fatigue party has got to be changed well it has got up to the present but I think it will be during the



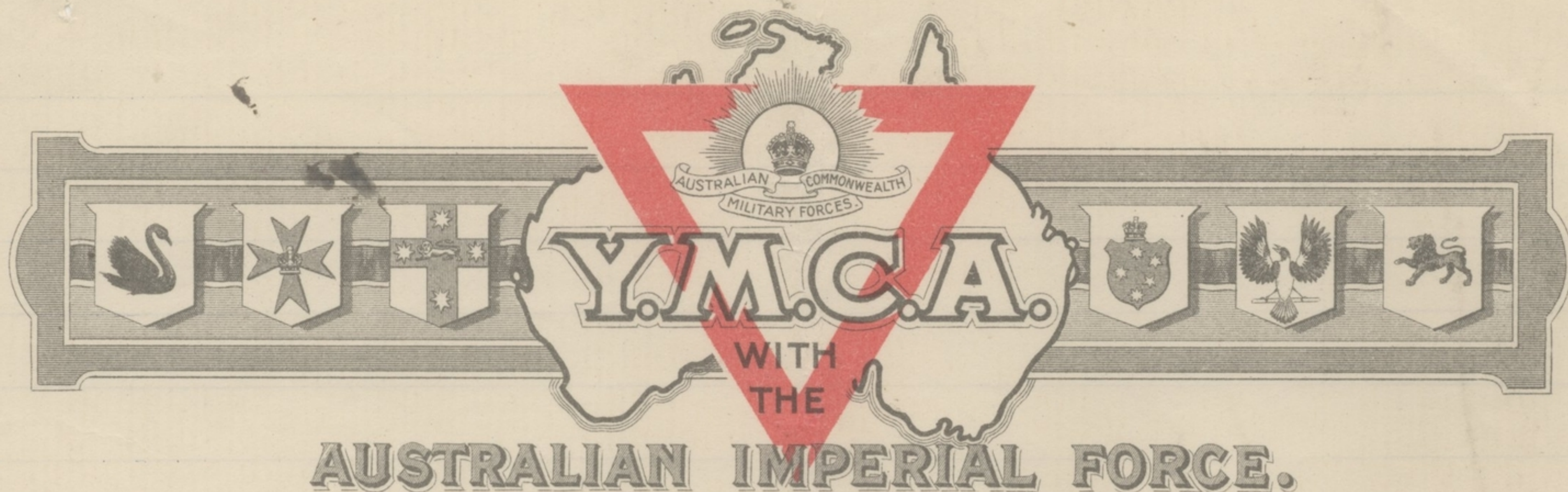
next week, well we cant grumble
for we have had a very good
run taking it all round.
I have got rid of my cold
altogether now & right glad
I am for it was just a pest.
We have just been issued with
our new pay books & what a
book they are great big things
& enough room in them to
receive payment for 2 years &
I sincerely hope I will all of
us shall have the pleasure
of seeing the war over before
they are quarter filled.
Well, we have enough here to
bury all the Germans in I
think we are up to our eyes
& the road leading from here
to Lidworth is impassable so
you can just guess how bad it is



Well I think I will draw
to a close, hoping this weather
will take a change for the
better for it is pouring at the
present moment & that all are
in the very best as I am my
self

Believe me to be
your very loving son

Bob



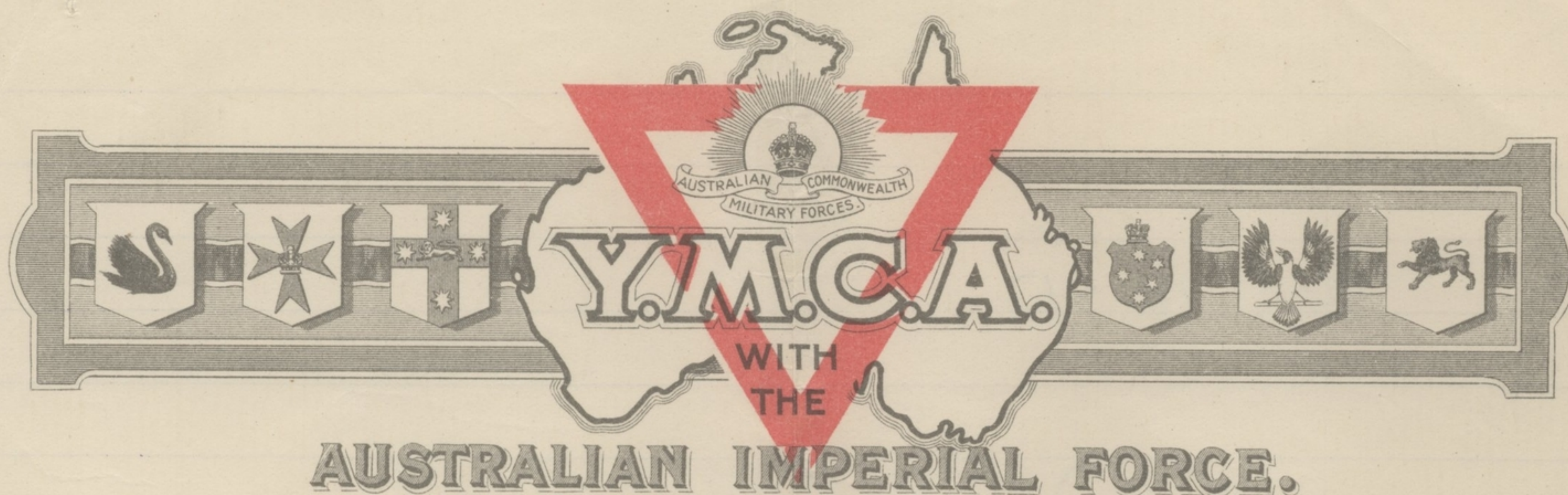
Sat. March 10/1917

Dear Mother & Father,

These photos are of my fatigue party we heard that the party was to be broken up so we clubbed up together & had our dials taken I think they have turned out very good & it was such a dull day.

Well I am glad to be able to say that I got on the right side of the P. S. M. & he has decided to let the party run on I told him a very pitiful tale & that the men were doing extra work at Bhurstpore, so all is well once again.

The names on the back of photos read from right left to right & the two in brackets are not there but are



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in my party, I want you to give one to Lallie & one to Peggy & the other for yourselves. We had rather a heavy fall of snow yesterday & these March winds blow right through one but on the whole the weather is not too bad.

I am feeling tip top myself & I hope all are the same at home so I will now close

I remain your loving son
Bob.

Mar 10 -17

68



14/3/17.

Perham Downs.

Dear Mother & Father,

Well my good job has come to a finish at last. All my men were returned to their companies this ^{morning} & go my self tomorrow. I hardly know what they are going to do with us but I fully expect to be in France within a fortnight.

I think myself very lucky for lasting so long. I am going to do my best as regards leave & shall try to get home some time next week & then I can explain it better to you all.

We had a fare well party last night & I can tell you things were somewhat lively & I can tell



you I am real sorry to part from
these fellows, but there's all in
a life time, there is nothing like
a change.

I hope you received photos safely
& what do you think of them, we
had them taken just in time.
I will get you ^{to send} a couple of notes
from that money of mine for
I want to buy one or two things
to fit myself again. I will get
you, request the letter as it is,
much safer, I will now close hoping
to see you all very soon

I remain your loving son

Bob.



1228 14 Batta A.I.F.
No 4 Command Depot
Wolgreth Camp
Wareham
Dorset
19/3/19

Dear Mother & Father,

As you see by the above address that I have changed camp again, I thought we were be going Perham for France but it has turned out to be here & by all accounts we shall be here some time for they are going to form us into another Australian Division which will be the sixth, you see it will take some time to get us into formation & I believe my new Batta will be the 65 & I shall belong to C company. This place is much better than Perham & also the camp, we are



fourteen miles from Bourne mouth
but I have very little chance
of getting there for it is out of
hounds the camp is so big that
I have got charge of a hut & it
has been isolated for one of the
men was taken ill yesterday with
mumps, of course we are isolated
top which is not too bad for we
have a spell & do nothing at all.
I will now close as the orderly
officer is in the next hut in spite
of will be here in a minute or two
So hoping one & all are well at
home

I remain
Your very loving son
Bob



28/3/17.

Reg. No 1228.

✓ P. B. Company
65 Batta. A. I. F.
Worret Camp
Wareham
Dorset.

Dear Mother & Father

Having got the day off through being sick & marked (No Duties) I have time to drop you a line. This new 6th division is being formed & the Battalions number from 61 to 92, 12 in all, & I can tell you we know it for they are sticking the work into us thick & heavy & it is just about getting on my nerves. The same old thing over & over again, right & left turn by numbers, form fours etc just as if we were new recruits. You know my back won't stand it, it feels as if it is going to snap in half.



I received a letter from Lallie a few days ago but have not received your registered ~~letter~~ that is if you sent it, if you did I think it would be as well if you tried to trace it for I can tell you we are all stoney broke in this camp & the food we get is not enough to feed a cpl on & as you can guess we feel rather hungry after doing hours drill before breakfast & long route marches during the day I don't think I have been free from feeling hungry since I arrived here & pay day is in about a fortnight's time & a few shillings in ones pocket would come in very handy.

My pal & I walked into Poole last Sat. afternoon a distance of 10 miles & walked home the same evening the town its self is very nice & the tram cars run from there to Bourne mouth a 1/2 mile or so but we had a rotten time simply because we had no money, well we started off with 2/3 & came back with 1/2



& I haven't been right since for we were very weary & feel sore when we arrived back at 2 o'clock Sunday morning. & I can tell you it will be a long while before we take it on again under the same conditions. Well I think I will close, & turn in to bed until tea time as my kidneys are very sore, hoping to hear from you very soon & that all are well at home.

I remain
Your very loving son
Bob.

Reg No 1228

B Coy

65 Batta A.I.F.

Worret Camp

✓ we have

10. 4. 14.

Dear Mother,

Just about time
I wrote what do you think,
well the holidays are over &
I havent been home yet I tried
this time but train travelling
is allowed for only 3 per cent
per Batta at present & as per
usual some others got those
3 passes any way my turn wout
be long now.

We went into Bourne mouth
for Sunday & Monday of course

of £10 I don't like my
chance of getting it but I
can do with it all the same
if one don't ask one will
never receive.

I have heard nothing more
about your registered letter
so you had better try &
trace it & I will also get
you to send along a couple
more pounds well I think
you had better make it
three of my money & I
might be able to send it
back if I get this big
pay.

I will now close hoping
all are well
I remain
Your loving
Son
Bob.

we had to walk & must say
we had a very fine time there, a
lot of London people are down
there on holidays & the town
is quite lively, it is rather an
expensive place to be in &
money don't go far in such
places.

Girls, why the place was
full of them & as per usual
all the Australians were
carting one about any way
it's a bit of a change from
camp life.

We handed our pay books
in today for pay day next
Tues. to day week & I put
a little note in side address
to our O C asking for
extra pay to the amount

P.S. Hope Peter is
progressing favourably.

11-1



Reg No 1228

S B Coy 65 Bata A.I.F.

Worrell Camp
Wareham

13 . 4 . 19.

Dear Mother,

I received your most welcome letter yesterday, dinner time & how quick it came, I sent my letter & got a return in less than a day & a half, it seems rather hard about that of other registered letters & I sincerely hope it will turn up before long.

I am now attending a ~~school~~ school here in this camp, it is for general drill use & we are being instructed by an imperial staff & they make one move about a bit, the school finishes today week, I do not mind it a bit for it freshens memory up a good deal.



Yesterday down here was a very
good day & also showery but
today is splen did just like
a mid summer's day except for rather
a strong wind.
I received Dollys & Hatters letters
the day before I received this one
& am glad to hear all are going
on well at home
I will now draw to a close
as it is just on time to fall in

I remain
Your loving Son

BDC

1228

65 Batten

Wareham

16. 4. 17.

Dear Mother.

Have just received
your letter which we have been
after for so long it has been
all over the place down to
Weymouth Ect.

Have very little time before
fall in sounds so cant stop to
write hoping all are well at
home as my self

I remain your loving son

Bob.

Peg No 1228
6 B Coy 165 Batta A.S.F.
5 Woodcroft Camp
Wareham
Dorset.

19. 4. 17.

Dear Mother,

Hope you received mine
safely & as you see by that I am
leaving to go back to Perham
again & from there to France & I
think this time it is right.

Orders came through
last night that all men belonging
to the 14th division have got to
return to their units at that
same division in their last
fight & have suffered awful
casualties & the very latest is
that the 14th Batta came out
with 10 men & those were more
dead than alive, just think what

a cutting up they must of had it
seems too dreadful to think of.

As regards to leave I
know very little but if there
is any possible chance I am
on it quick & lively, in one
way I would sooner stop here
then again I am pleased I am
getting back to the old 11, again.
I can hardly ~~make~~ make
it out yet for I have been
away so long but there I shall
soon get used to it.

Well I think I will
close & await events, hoping one
& all are well at home

I remain

Your loving son

Bob

Reg No 1228
of 14 Batta A.S.F.

22. 4. 17.

Perham Downs.

Sunday Morn.

Dear Mother,

Arrived here yesterday
after a lot of delay, went out on
parade this morning & had this
cheerful news told to us, that the
4 division has just about lost
every man in France half of
them taken prisoners & the other
half killed & that we are to
hold our selves in readiness to
leave this camp for France
tomorrow night (Mon) the 23rd
April, this is very sudden & as
you see I have no chance of
getting home before I go & I
don't no whether I shall be able
to see you, we leave England from
Folkestone & then across the water
I was wondering if you ^{could} come down

there & see me, that will be tomorrow
night.

Of course these orders
may be cancelled but I think
not, any way I shall know in
the morning & if they carry on
I will write you, the drafts
generally leave there about 9 o'clock
at night, so when we get at Fald.
it will ^{be late &} give you a chance to
get down them.

I left some washing & a
tunic at Wareham & am getting
on of my pals down there to send
it home so as you can send it
to me on the other side as the
clothes I stand in are the only
ones I have, that is under clothes.

I shall very much like
to see you tomorrow & if this
letter reaches you early enough
you might be able to get down
here & there by save the

chances of missing you down at Folk.
If you do come stop me a wire
& I shall look out for you at
the time you arrive to don't forget
come to Tidworth station not
Ludgershall, you will be able
to take my best tunic & back also
a pair of good boots I have.
Well now I shall have ^{to leave}
as we have got to go & get the
rest of our equipment hoping to
see you tomorrow.

Believe me to be
Yours very loving son
Bob.

Addresses for this camp

1228

Cpl. Nuttall.

14 Batten A.I.F.

Infantry Draft Depot. No 4 Camp
Perham Downs. ect.

Reg No 1228
of 14 Batta 4 Brig. A.I.F.
Sat evening France
6 o'clock 28. 4. 17.

Dear Mother + Father

6 off tomorrow
morning Sunday, we catch 2.30 am
train from Tidworth, a move
almost in the middle of the
night.

I have sent you along 2
parcels one the other day + one
today, do not send anything over
until you get a letter from me.

Should you get those photos
of mine + if they turn out
decent will you please send one
of each of them along to a friend
of mine whose address is at end of letter.

Sincerely hope you arrived
home safely + all that all are
in the very of health at home

as I am myself, in fact I am feeling
just fit, I cannot stop to write
any more now as we have to
fall in & after that I shall
try to get a few hours sleep
before we go.

Believe me to be
Yours very loving son
T. B. G.

Address.

Miss Beulah E. S. D. Galpin
"Windham House"
139 Windham Rd.
Bournemouth
East
Hants.

Reg No 1228
L. M. G. S. D. Coy.

May 8th
1917.

14 Battr.
6 Brigade
A. I. F.

Dear Mother + Father,

Back again with the old Battalion + I can tell you I am just glad to be settled down again with them, as I sit here + write in this billet the rain is coming in through the roof on to my papers + it is hard to dodge but taking the weather on the average it has been splendid.

When you get this letter + send over to me I will get you to send the old pair of brown boots I sent home to you in that parcel from Perham also one shirt + a pair of underpants.

The tales we heard in England about our division were fairly correct so you can guess how things stand here, I hardly know any of them here at all for they are all new to me

My promotion to Cpl has gone
through at last. so I am fixed alright
now, well I have a lot to say but cant
so I will close sincerely hoping me
& all are in the best as I am myself

Believe me to be
Yours very loving Son
Bob.

P.S. Dont forget boots. I dont send
bacon as we get plenty. Bob

Reg No 1328
Pat J J

May 20 7. France.

Dear Mother & Father,

Here we are again
received your most welcome letter
& parcels yesterday & I can tell
you the boots & clothes have come
just at the right moment for my
feet were sore & I was helping
to keep a few other things besides
myself alive but now I am feeling
just great.

I have received a letter from
my friend Billie saying she has
received the photos you sent on to
her & she sent you on a note thanking
you for them, by the way if there are
any over I would like you to send

me out one of each just to see
what they goe like.

I have a great deal I
would ^{like} to tell you but must not
thus making letters writing very
hard from this side. if you like
when sending out a parcel to me
you can send some bacon the way
you said for our use is very
little after all, but dont send
fruit for what you sent turned
bad so it is golly a waste.

Well I am not going to
write any more now for I cant but
will drop a card next week hoping
one + all are well at home as
myself

I remain your loving son
R.B. of

Pop No 1228

of 14 Batta A I F.

A rance

June 3rd 17.

Dear Mother + Father,

I must start on one of these great efforts of mine again of writing a letter, to me it is real hard work for in the first place I am not a bit of good at pen pushing and again I can't give you what little news I have in this thick head of mine because, well you know the reason.

I received your most welcome letter with photos by last evening's post and am so pleased to hear all are going on first class at home as I am myself, and to that Policy is fixed up at last and just about time too what do you think.

Well it is Sunday morning
and as I sit here and write the
whole place seems just grand
I suppose the reason is because
we are having such beautiful
weather, well out here it is
almost a little too hot but
there give me the hot to the
cold leazy time.

Blay the way what sort
of a holiday did you all spend
I myself forgot all about
Whitsun until it was all over
but holidays count nothing here
in fact most times we work harder
on holidays than other times.

How rowy is bias going
at Clerkenwell I have heard
very little from that quarter
for quite a long time also the
patent & there is the little green
patch on the Downfalls, I feel
just now as if I could dig
for a week without stopping

I am now up in the
place we spent the first
of our time here close to the
place weor jungle, & after war,
well now I think that about
finishes it. So I will close
sincerely hoping all well as
it is here.

I remain
Your loving son
Bob.

France
June 20th 1917.

Dear Mother and Father,

Here we are again and still in the land of the living, well I have just come out of this last stint and I must say I am very lucky to be able to sit here and write this letter, any way we have got the big beat and easy but that I suppose you have read and forgotten about the capture of Messines ridge well the old 14 took part in that and we did very well, in fact the whole operation was a striking success.

I have not been able to write before so we have just come out and I think we shall be going back shortly. I received

your most welcome letter whilst
up in the line and a parcel from
Bob & Effie yesterday.
Well must how are all
at home, the same as myself I
sincerely hope for I am keeping
very fit and with this splendid
weather it makes life very
enjoyable.

How close did the air
raid come to Haringay when I
first heard about it and the
heavy loss of life it began
to make I can think a bit, it
makes my blood boil to
think of their dastardly deeds
and I am very pleased to be
able to say that I counted for
a few more hours with my
machine gun and as I have
told you before it leaves
a great feeling of
satisfaction behind when
one sees them going over

like mine wife.

Well I will draw
to a close as the mail is about
to close so hoping to send you
along a couple of Souvenirs
before long

Believe me to be
Yours very loving son
Bill