

Australian Commonwealth Military Forces
Y.M.C.A. with the
Australian Imperial Forces

Saturday 29 Sept 1917
Codford
Wiltshire
England

Dear George

Just a few lines to let you know that I am OK and hoping you are the same at home. Well George things are stale over hear and will be glad to get out of this hole we only came off the shooting range this morning after being on a week and done some good shooting and passed as a second class shot better than what I though I could do. Well George I had a letter from Auntie Lou and she said she has not heard from Christie for some time but I had a letter from him last week he his doing alright has not being doing any fighting for the last couple of week he has been playing football now he his expecting to go on leave anytime now he said he his coming up to see me if I aint in France by the time he come over so I will be glad to see him when he does come.

Well George I had a letter from Sam Hayden and tell me springy his mad after some tart where he goes dancing he his coming out in style latly dancing I hope she thinks he his a good bloke because I don't. Well Brother the drummoynes soccer team are having hard luck not wining the comp but the old Balmains are doing well they are home on the bit they are the boy we were playing the 16 Batt to day they are from Western Ausie they were tough to they beat us by 9 to 3. Well Brother we will going through the gas chamber nest week and boming to so you can see we wont be long now. Well Brother this is all I have to say this time so remember me to all at home so I will close this with the best of luck.

From your Brother
Bill

Send me the sportman every (Saturday) Wednesday

THE SALVATION ARMY

RECREATION AND READING ROOM
FOR HIS MAJESTY'S TROOPS:

*Address reply to Codford Wiltshire England No. 7534
Section..A..Company..13..Battalion..4 Training*

Thursday 11 Oct 1917

Dear Georg.

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter and was glad to hear that you are alright at home as I am the same. Well George you was asking about the foot ball. Sam does not own it he has a share in it you can have my share. Joe Papworth has a share to you tell Sam that he does not own it at all if you dont I will tell him because I am away he thinks he owns it well he dont as you own it as much as he does. Well George things are stale hear what do you think I am not going to France until I learn my trade me and my mate so when we do go to France we wont be in the trenches our seargeant got it for us we are going to be Black smith so tell Dad I have fell into a good crop I will let you know later when we leave to go to the school so not to worry about me I will be alright it ought to be a good thing tell Uncle Henry I will shoe his horses when I come back. Well George I was glad to hear Dolly had a dugther how does Horry take it. Well George this is all the news at present so I will close this not hoping to see you soon. Your lovingly Brother Bill

(On Back of Page):

*Remember me to all at home
I also had a letter from Florrie
and Yow none from Fred yet
he his a beauty I am not writing to
him any more.*

Navy & Army
N.A.C.B.
Canteen Board

Name of Unit: 13th Battalion
Camp: South Camp Romsey
Date: Sunday Dec 2nd 1917

Dear George

Just a few lines to let you know that I am O.K. and hoping you are all the same at home. Well Brother how do you like your new job as a joiner I wish I was back learning a trade instead of soldiering but don't worry I am having a good time hear with the mules their was three got a blighty hear last week one was a Ausie he his pretty crook on it I see a tommie out of our shop get knocked on Friday he was going round to fit a shoe when the one next door let out and got him if he had have got killed I couldn't stop laughing my side was aching its the best laugh I had for some time I tell you.

Well Brother I see they are starting sailing again I wish I was back with the old Millie again she do me for some fun I will get a skiff when I get back and sail her myself I suppose you got down to the races of a Saturday now you are working if you se Whythey give him a rib about droping me a line he hasnt answered one of my letters yet. Well Brother we are having good pretty good wheather hear I havent seen any snow yet and I don't want to. Well George I think you best off I wish I was you this is all I have to say this time so remember me to all as I will close this with the best of luck

From your loving Brother
Bill

Letter Heading

For God, For King and For Country

Y.M.C.A.

Patron

Y.M.C.A National Council

H.M. The King

Y.M.C.A.

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Y.M.C.A.

Patron

Military Camp Dept.

H.M.H Duke of Connaught

Reply: 7532-Company: a-Bat. 13

Station at: Pitt Corner Camp

Winchester. Hants

Feb 14th 1918

Dear Brother

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which I received today dated 30th November 1917 and was glad to hear from you. Well George I am in a new place now and expected to pass out on this board but they can't get pupils in so are holding us back this is a bigger place than Romsey it is the largest Veterinary Hospital in the world but I would sooner be back in Romsey they have cut our tucker down here I nearly went out to it the other morning we are starving here you wouldn't believe it only for the tucker we buy ourselves we would be dead the Farriers are playing up about it here we can't do the work on it I think the school is going to last much longer by what we hear down here I will be glad to get back to Romsey.

Well Brother I hope to be home out of it for the next winter I am fed up with it altogether you can't beat old sunny New South and you are talking about you would be the next to enlist to come over here on the plains to live in agony give me my turn over again I would still be in Aussie there are hundreds of Aussie adrift in London you can't expect any think else they way they get treated.

Well George I suppose you know that Chris is in the hospital again with a scalded foot he ought to be home out of it he has done his share let some of the Goldsmiths come and have a share of it. Well Brother I think this is all the news at present so remember me to all at home also Lou and tell her I can't write I have got *enough money to buy smokes not alone to buy stamp so I will close this note with the best of luck hoping this finds you all well at home as it leaves me at present.*

From your loving

Brother

Bill

March 15.3.1918
Codford
Wiltshire

Dear George

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which I received yesterday and was pleased to hear from you and that you are all well at home I seem to get all my mail now I had two from Florrie and the post card with the Roll of honour. Well George you say you wanted one of my photos. Well couldn't give you *one of them because I had none to spare but I am getting taken again on Saturday I will give you one of them also Sam Hayden one and Dolly.* Well George I am on draft for France on Tuesday week I am glad to would sooner be their than this hole me and my mate asked to be put till duration if you wanted to but that no good get over and get a good Blighty home out of it.

Well George I had a good time Woolwick it was great their just like been on leaf if his only just out side of London no distance at all the money came in handy what Ruby sent me I got leaf to go and get it I was broke at the time and still have a note left. Well Brother I had a letter from auntie Lou the other day and she had a letter from Chris asking after me but it no good of me writing I have had two letter returned no and cant make it out he his in hospital I know that I am waiting for a letter from him now. Well George I meet George Williams hear on Sunday he his a corporal now he look well on it he told me that George Bruce his hear and Reg Bates but I cant find them they told me that he was gone over seas to France.

Well George news his pretty scarce hear now so I will close this note with the best of luck to all hoping finds you all in the best of health as it leaves me at present.

From your Loving Brother
Bill

Letter Heading

In The Field.

Map of Australia
Insert with Rising Sun Badge
Red Diamond with Y.M.C.A.

Base France
27.3.1918

Dear George

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which I received on Tuesday morning just before I left and was pleased to hear from you and that they are all well at home. Well Brother we landed hear safe and sound this morning and marched into base this afternoon it was about six miles from Le Harve that was enough for me with full pack. Well George we leave hear tomorrow some time but I don't know where we are going yet will write to you later on and let you know where *I am you can tell Florrie I am over hear also Lou as I haven't got time to write to them* all just at present I had a letter from Aunt Lou the same time as you they are all well up their when you see Fred Farrier tell him that George Bruce wont down to the lines about a month ago as far as I know he his alright and tell Sam Hayden I had a letter from his tart tell her I will write later on when I get time.

Well George news his pretty scarce hear now hoping these few lines finds you all in the best of health at it leaves me at present.

From your
Loving Brother
Bill

Letter Heading

In The Field.

Map of Australia
Insert with Rising Sun Badge
Red Diamond with Y.M.C.A.

France
16 April 1918

Dear George

Just a few lines to let you know that I am well and hoping you are the same at home. Well George I received you paper last Thursday but I didn't have time to read it as we were just going up to the line we struck it pretty lucky only in three days when the Batt were coming out for a spell but that was a enough for me I tell you its no con in the trenches I don't want any more of it but I will have to go in the batt again I am with the Lewis gun now you are up to your neck in mud in the trenches.

Well George haven't had any new of Chris for the last couple of months the last time I heard was when I was at Winchester he was in the hospital at time I only hope he his still their its his better their than this place I tell you wish I was with him. Well Brother I meet Jack Paterson in Le Harve at the base he came over about a week after I did he looks well on it, you can tell Sam Hayden I will write later on as I have no time now we are to busy just at present.

Well George I think this his all the news at present so remember me to all at home also the mob so I will close this note with the best of luck to all.

Your Lovingly
Brother
Bill

Emblem
Church Alter

The Australian Military Church
(C. of E.)
With Recreation Room

On Active Service

AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS

France
Monday July 6th 1918

Dear George

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter to hand and was very glad to hear from you and that you are all keeping well at home as I am the same just at present. Well Brother I had a letter from Fred Ferriera the other day and he was telling me that Monty and Whitey has gone up the country and so has Bill Starkey he got the sack off his old man for being drunk in the dray how his Freddie Dundon getting on with his old bloke I believe he was going to job him only Auntie stopped him its looks like some fun knocking around over their.

Well Brother you better not send the papers any more I don't get them I only seen one of them yet, you say you are getting on with the trade all right that's good I hope you stick at it I heard you were working out in the building now but you say that you are still in side working Sam Hayden tell me that you got to go to Teck now and you don't like it you want to stick at it now you have started you will get the benefit later on I was a fool and you know it not sticking where I was.

Well George I think Christie his going home I only hope so he has seen enough to do him for a while I wish I was with him he was getting leave to go and see Aunt before he whent he said he had some good new from home but I don't know what it his I see Jiddy Baldwin his home also Bill Davis nearly all the boys are going home now and Valley Bermham is going home with a leg off George Williams told me that he saw him getting carried in but I don't know whether its true or not.

Well Brother news his very scarce hear just at present so remember me to all so I will close this note with the best of luck to all.

From Your Loving
Brother
Bill

Emblem

Colour Patch

Light Green
Over
Dark Green

13th September 1918

13th Battalion.
A.I.F.
France

Dear George

Just a few lines to let you know that I am O.K. hoping you are all the same at home. Well George I received two more of your papers a couple of week ago I have only received three altogether so I think you better not send any more. Well Brother we cant get smokes anywhere over hear now I walked miles yesterday and then couldn't get any only what I nipped its is starting to get cold now and you need a smoke you need to be able to get plenty of smokes but now you cant get one its pretty hard when a bloke cant have a smoke theirs a canteen in Peronne that's a good way from hear and they cant get them we get plenty of smokes when their a stunt on we get Fritys canteens beer and all.

Well brother I think we are wining now don't you I hope to be home at easter they are sending all 1914 men home now and some 1915 so I reckon that Chris has a good chance I wish I was 1914 man it wouldn't be great to know you were going home I don't think I would sleep for a week their was some went from hear this morning ten from our Battalion.

Well Brother I am just waiting for the hun to come over with a load of bombs to let us know he his still a live he came over last night and got a supprise their his about 50 search light hear their was three huns brought down in flames that's the best place for then them their a dead Hun lying in the main street of Peronne and they are *frighten to touch him because their was a dead hun on a stretcher down their and four* pioneers went to pick him up and up went the hole lot it was mined he will come at any think now we don't like going down his dugouts now he his up to all sorts of cappers they ought to kill every prisoner they get they are not worth living.

Well Brother I think this his all the news just at present so I will close with the best of luck to all

From Your Loving
Brother
Bill

October 15th 1918
France

Dear George

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter to hand and was very pleased to hear from you. Well Brother was sorry to hear about Auntie Addie being dead I got a letter from Vera & Doris also a pair of socks they told me that Auntie was in the hospital and they felt lonely with out her. Well Brother we had Billy Hughes hear today and he said we were out for a long spell and we wouldn't see no more war I anit sorry either we nearly went mad the other day when we saw the paper that *Germany accepted all terms their was hats going up in the air and they came from all directions to buy a paper* I thought I would be home soon but I still think we will be home fore easter I hope so I wont be happy till I get my ticket and say I am free of the army I don't wont to see any more wars this one taught me a lesson.

Well Brother how his Sam getting along never get much mail now this his the first I have had for a month no word from Chris yet but I think he is alright I believe you are getting as fat as a pig how his your sheila getting on any living out around our way don't for get to give us a knock down to a couple when I get back oh I believe Chris is getting married on Blighty what I think I will follow suit I don't think no married life for this chicken.

Well Brother how the sailing getting on over I think I will have another ten footer plenty of sport in them. Well I think this all the news just at present so I will close hoping these few lines find you in the best of health as it leaves me at present.

Whishing you all a merry Christmas and happy new year.

Will

1st December 1918
10 Battalion
France

Dear George

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter to hand and was pleased to hear from you and that you are all O.K. as I am the same. Well George I received your letter about a week ago at Fresnoy and I never had time to answer it as we are on the move we were making for Germany but that's been put off I don't know *what we are going to do now we might go into Germany later on I think it will be* another 12 months before you will see me home I think Chris will be home about March that's if they are going to do what they tell us all 1915 men up to June and married men are the first to leave we are up near the Belguim Border now I think we will have Christmas in this place we are billeted in a big hun hospital three storey high its not knocked about like other places hear all the Railway way stations & Bridges have been mined I think it will take a while to get it going again we have been marching 15 to 20 mile a day to get hear.

Well George I am expecting to go on my leave any day now and I sent home for ten pound and its hasn't arrived yet asked Ruby did she send it I cant go without I get it and if I keep putting it off I wont get it at all. Well I think this is all the news just at present so I will close with the best of luck to all.

Bill

Letter Heading

In The Field.

Map of Australia
Insert with Rising Sun Badge
Red Diamond with Y.M.C.A.

¹
6.2.1918.9

Dear George

Just a few lines to let you know that I am O.K. and hoping you are all the same at home. Well Brother I haven't received any Christmas mail from home yet I got a *parcel from the comforts funds that was all so you can tell dad to let them know about it.* Well we are up in the Belgium now at Florence the people hear are pretty good to us they will give you a feed if they can spare it I have dug well in hear at a farmers joint I always get a pretty good feed and they seem decent people that had to bury every think away from the huns he has a double barrel gun just been dug up after been buried for four years he still has carrots and spuds buried in straw.

Well George I suppose you are getting good wheather out their know we haven't had it cold yet at all rain we had a bit of snow on Christmas day but that was all. Well I suppose you are expecting us home shortly but I think will be a long time yet Chris ought to be home shortly by the time you get this he ought to be well on his way. Well I think this is all I have to say this time so I will close the few lines with best of luck to all.

From Bill

Letter Heading

In The Field.

Map of Australia
Insert with Rising Sun Badge
Red Diamond with Y.M.C.A.

9.1.1918⁹

Dear George

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which I received to day and was very pleased t hear from you once again and that you are all O.K. at home as *I am the same. Well Brother I had a letter from Auntie Lou to day and they are all well over their she told me the Chris left France for home on the 6th of December so you see him home soon their some gone from hear this month and their another big punch going from hear on the 13th of this month they tell us we will all be out of France by March I hope so I wish I was on my way home never mind but it wont be long now before I hit old Drummy again you say it is still dead it will get a bit lively by the time all the mob get home.*

Well George I see Fred is living a Abbotsford now how many motor cars has be bought Jack English now. Well George we are having great wheather for this time of the year it was like a summers day to day we haven't had it cold yet all the snow we had was on Christmas day and that wasn't much. Well George their not much news hear just at present so I will close these few lines with the best of luck to all

From Your Brother
Bill

Letter Heading

Map of Australia
Insert with Rising Sun Badge
Red Diamond with Y.M.C.A.

26.1.1919

Dear George

Just a few line to let you know that I am O.K. and hoping you are all the same at home. Well George Ruby is a beaut for not cable that ten quid I sent for that sent for me last night to tee me I was going Blighty for my leaf to day and I had to turn it down because the money hadn't arrived yet asked her did she send it if she hasn't its will be no good when you get when you get this letter god knows where a man will be I write and to Auntie Lou I would be over any time as I was expecting it a letter from the bank she will go crook when I tell her I cant come over now has I promised her I will be over before next month. Well I will go crook when I get home about it anyhow.

Well we are getting cold wheath now plenty of snow and frost, theirs some talk of some of us going to India with horses I will drag that on a couple a couple of trips wont hurt a man I don't know how true it is I hope it is true.

Well I suppose Chris is nearly home by this time we as still on Florennes Belgium Dream Cambridge is at Lelanriac and Joe Walker is at Denant. Well I think this is all I have to say at present so I will ring of now wishing you all the best of luck.

Bill