

France
Jan 7th 1917

To all at home,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living yet and hope to remain so. I have not received any letters for a long while. The last one I received was dated in August so that is fairly old.

Christmas has gone past. How different it was from the last. It was very quiet on the whole. We were back for a spell so we had the luck to have it out of Strick's range.

Well into the new year now and the blooming war still going on and likely to continue so. The weather so far has not been too bad although it has been after very cold and twice we have had snow. My word it was cold before it snowed and mighty sloppy afterwards.

The ground is frozen on the top of it is so. We had a lovely frost last night. All the water holes are frozen over and to about an inch thick.

The weather has been fairly fine for the last couple of days and one can see the sun a bit.

By the paper one can see that you have been having your fair share of rain too. I suppose the old creek did the same old thing again. My word they had some rain in Queensland and it did a bit of damage.

Harvest will be just about over now. How did the crops pan out. I suppose labor was pretty scarce this year.

again.

I have not received or heard anything
about either Leo or George for a long while
In the last letter from Leslie he said
George was sick & in hospital but what
with or how bad I do not know. I am
writing to Leslie this afternoon to see
if he can manage to get me with him
or do something as I have had sufficient
walking to do me. I think I must have
walked round the globe half a dozen
times. This is all I can write this time
so I close hoping you are all well
as I am at present.
son & Brother Jim

From your loving

1 DRL 530

France
Jan 26 1917

To all at home,

just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive & well in the land of the war. Over here winter has set in in its full strength. The ground is covered several inches deep in snow and all the ponds and shell holes are frozen to several inches thick. Every night there is a bonny frost and I can tell you it is mighty cold.

The weather in general has been fair so far but the worst part of winter has to come. The Christmas parcels & letters are beginning to arrive now but I have not received any so far but keep on hoping.

I have not heard anything of Leo or George now. Of George I have not had a line for ages but I suppose he is all right.

I suppose the harvest is fast for another year. How did the crops pan out. By the papers one could see that you had plenty of rain so they ought to be

good, & I'd would be nice & warm there
now. I wish you could transfer so of
the surplus heat over here as you all will
be growling at the heat while everything
is freezing over here. I will never growl
at the heat again after this experience.

Some nights everything is so quiet
and peaceful that one hardly thinks that
there is war on and other times it
is like hell.

This is all this time so I close
hoping that you all are in your usual
health as I am at present

From your son & brother
Jim

C Coy
58th Batt

France

Feb 1917

Dear Lena

Just a few lines to let you know that I have not forgotten you although I have not written to you for a long while.

There is mighty little change in a place like this. It is mud and cold and when it is not muddy the ground is frozen like a board. The ground has been frozen and covered with snow but a few days ago we had some warm days and now everything is mud and slush again.

If you did not see it you would not believe that the ground could get so hard. It gets like a stone and if you pick it you have a better hope with a knife.

How is your job going. Hoping it is going better than mine. I would rather now be back at the old job again, although at that time I disliked it. My wife has seemed very joyous over her raise in salary.

There has been great changes in

the staff at Horsham. There will hardly
any of the old mob left when I get back if
I ever have the luck to do so. There are only
14 out of 13 out them left now so that is
~~not~~ pretty quick is a year.

I have received several bundles of
letters lately and have just commenced
to answer some of them and I have not
got the least bit of news to write
I will now close hoping you are quite well as
I am at present. From your loving
brother
Jim.

T DRI 290

France

Feb 10th 1917

To all at home,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still going strong in the land of the lily although where the lily comes in I cannot see for the life of me.

The cold over here now is intense, for the last twenty days or more there has been a frost every night and I can tell you the frosts are nothing to be sneered at by any means.

There has been snow on the ground now for over a month and has never thawed at all.

All the holes are frozen over and it is a hard job to get water to wash our bad

The ice in some places is about 15 inches thick. The days are fine and it is generally cloudless but the old sun has not got much warmth in him here now.

Wish one could get some of the surplus heat from the tropics to warm things up a bit. On a couple of days the temperature has been below zero. How is that for being warm.

I received a bundle of letters the other day and also a parcel from I don't know whom as there was no note or anything in it. The things were ~~the~~ very handy all the same I can tell you. I also received a small parcel from Linda March so that is more work letter writing

I'm sending them
back, thanks very
much. When you
write a letter
I will answer
it with pleasure
Love Bess

I received a short letter from
Leslie He was saying that
you were anxious about
me not writing as often as he
well. He has always the opportunity
of writing and getting them
away while I may go for
a month and not get a
a chance. So don't worry
if you don't receive a letter
every mail. Of George I have
received no word for a long
while but he may be in
my position for letter writing

By the letters you
seem to think that you
would have a lovely
harvest. How did it
all pan out. I must
close now as I have nothing
else to write about. Yr son
your loving brother & son
Jim

Ed Pearson