

FOR GOD - AND - FOR COUNTRY,
FOR KING

Patron of National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s:
HIS MAJESTY THE KING.
Patron Military Camp Department:
H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

HEADQUARTERS:
"GEORGE WILLIAMS HOUSE,"
13, RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.

From.....

..... Battl. Reg't. Coy.

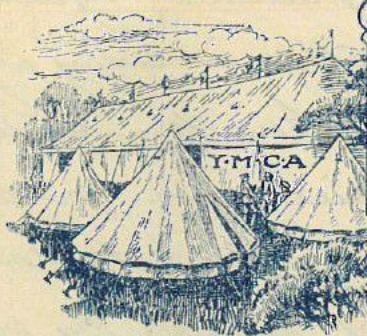
Address reply to.....

Private David James
3rd Squad. Welsh Guards
White City. Shep. Bush
London
Saturday.

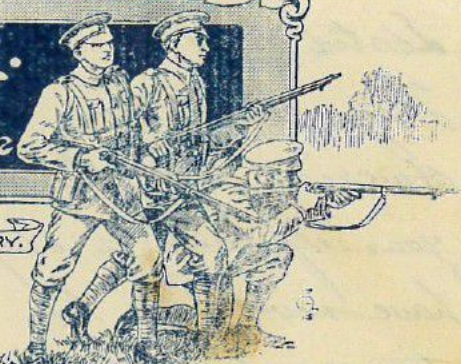
Dear Mother.

I am getting on all right and am in excellent health. I sometimes feel homesick, especially when I received your letter this morning. I can tell you I was most pleased. I had two, one from you and one from Miss Davies. Yours had been opened by another chap who has the same name as myself. He came on to me and told me that, he had opened it by mistake, however it is all right now, as he has left for the Depo. of the 1st Battalion proper, I shall be going from here too, in a few weeks to the same place, I am not sure where it is yet and have been trying to find out, but I will let
(over)

you know when that time comes. When We get there
work we will have to go through will be very hard. It is
then that I will have my rifle, and have all the field work
to go through. I had my Uniform last Thursday and had
to don it straight away. I was very thankfull to get
it, as I am now able to leave the White City and see
a bit of London. I went out last night (Friday) for the
first time. I did not go very far. I was afraid of
losing my way, and not getting back in time. We have to
be in ~~by~~ 9.30 p.m. unless we have a special permit, which
can be easily obtained on going to the Corporal who has
charge of us. I am going out this evening to send my
clothes home. If I had known what I do now. I would
not have taken anything with me as I have been fitted out
with everything complete. Uniform, two shirts, two pairs of
pants, Cardigan Jacket. Top Coat. 1 Pair of Boots. Night cap,
ragon, a pair of light canvas slippers to wear indoors, and a lot
of smaller articles which are very usefull. I am keeping my
old Boots and the Case of Auntie Winnie sent me, and am
sending all the rest home. I have been given to understand
that by marking them (Recruits Clothing) they will be sent
free of charge. I have marked them (Carriage Forward)
and if you will have to pay some on delivery. Just send
and tell me how much and I will forward it out to you.
I know you will need it. I will ~~speaking~~ to the Sergeant
next Monday ~~&~~ and see about that allotment which Dad
was talking about. If he ^(Dad) has any information to ~~&~~ give me
about it tell him to send it on. I know you miss me Mother.



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and I always think of you all at home when I turn in in the night and lights out is sounded. I hope the time will soon come when I shall be home to see you again. Tell M. and Billy, that I am sending them some post cards, and that I will buy them something when next I go out. When I was out last, I did not go very far, just round Shepard's Bush. The streets are all in Darkness and all the young men about here are in Uniform. you wont see many about in civies and when we are all in bed after lights out we can see the searchlights flashing past our windows every now and again. We have a lovely Y.M.C.A. building where all soldiers go to write their letters home. There are hundreds of long tables, covered with green bays, and everything comfort is provided for us. There is billiards here and every game you can think of even indoor lawn Tennis. It is very interesting to sit down and see some of the ^{soldiers} writing letters. There is a very thoughtful expression on their faces and they

look so serious. We are all the best of friends. English. Welsh
 Scotch and Irish and, we help one another in every way.
 They come from all parts of the United Kingdom. some from
 America and the Colonies. It is very nice when you are by
 yourself and a chap will come and sit by you. ~~it~~ you may
 have never seen him before, but it does not matter. You will talk
 together for a long time as though you had ~~been~~ known him for
 years. They are all fine chaps. I have met two fellows here
 from Dowlais who are in the Welsh Guards. they are not in the
 same Squad as I am. One was working in Beelling and the
 other in Fochriem (Underground). They are both married men, well
 over thirty. It is supprising what a number of married men
 there are here. I know most of our Squad are married men. in great
 majority too. I have got a decent pal here, he is a chap by
 the name of Letman, and comes from Liverpool. ~~1849~~. he enlisted
 he belonged to the Liverpool police. There are a tremendous
 amount of Policemen here, fine looking men they are too.
 That Chap I was telling you about. Russel, who was to come
 with me from Merthyr, but did not for some reason or other, arrived
 yesterday. he has been in the police force.

When I started, our Squad was only 12, to day
 it is 70 and they are still coming in very fast. Most of them
 have served in the Army before, and they tell me that we
 are a lot ^{in the Guards} quicker than they are in other Regiments. As I
 mentioned before we are put through it most severely but I am
 sticking it all right. some of the chaps are very dull and the rest have
 to suffer for them. We have a fine Corporal. we were very lucky in that
 respect. as some of the others are ~~pe~~ sect Devils. The Officers are very
 kind to us. To morrow ^{Sunday} we go on bathing, ~~and~~ instead of Church Parade. after