

we are in tents and some in
huts, our platoon occupy one
of the latter. We have been doing
battalion drill to day and layout
work, they always do help us at
it when out of the trenches, but
it keeps us fit all the same.

I hope Tom has written by
now, I will write to him soon.

I have just read a bit of
news, and that is that George
one of my old friends, who was second
Lieutenant in the South Wales Border
has been killed out here. It was
after I had my dinner this afternoon
that I picked up a newspaper and
settled myself down to have a smoke.
The word Douglas over a short
paragraph drew my attention, and

I got quite a shock when I read it. Poor George, he was one of the best friends I ever had, and I can't help feeling sad about it. Tell dad to tender my deepest sympathies to Morgan, his brother, next time he sees him. His mother must feel it very much.

I have a lot of good news to tell you and that ^{is that} I am among the next batch for leave, and don't think it will be long now before I shall see you all again. I have waited very patiently for it, God knows.

There were five drawn from our platoon last night, and my heart leaped when I heard my name called. I have given in my particulars, home address etc. so you can start

getting my own clothes ready
by the time I come. It's a bit
unfortunate that Aunt Olive
and Winnifred has gone back just
when I am coming home.

I shall be an awful sight
I'm afraid. I was told to get my
hair cut yesterday, and there being
no barber handy, I asked one of the
boys who has got a machine to cut
it for me. He made no mistake about
it either, for he cut the lot off as
close as he possibly could, and I
had quite a shock when I put my
hand up to my head and felt it so
bare, but there's one consolation that it
will grow again. I have also given
my jacket and trousers to one of our
chaps who went on leave a few days

ago, he wanted to look a bit smart,
so I didn't mind exchanging for a
time, as I had a new one given
me some time ago. The jacket I
have on now is about four sizes
too big for me, and the trousers have seen
much warfare.

However, I don't mind a bit as
long as I see old "Eugenie" again.
~~but I hope I won't have to wait~~
long now. Write back when you
get this.

Your Loving Son
David xxx