

My Dearest

12. 8. 14

just a line before I
go I am still in ^{the} I have been
expecting a letter from you but as I
told you we might be leaving here
on Sunday I expect you thought I
might not get it but you can always
write to the last address I am where
you hear from me it will always
find me. Dear ^{at} the above
address will always find me. we
are leaving here tomorrow morning
on Friday morning we are going
round the coast straight to
Belgium I am not supposed to tell
you this as we have not got to
put the place where we are on
our letters just On Active Service
that is all. We have been issued
with a little tin disc with our number
name and regiment on which we
have to wear round our necks, so
they can tell who we are if we get
killed, I belong to the expeditionary
force whom ^{is sending}

out to the front; Dear . This is a
place to be in, we have to fight like
tigers to get our food here soon as ever
it comes up about 50 make a grab at
it some get a lot and some don't get
any, if we have money it is a hard
job to spend it if you go the coffee
shop or canteen you have to wait
about two hours before it is your
turn to be served, if I get through
this lot no more for me, it will
be better when we leave barracks
as every man will carry his own
rations we were allowed out of
barracks two hours last Sunday
after we had been on church parade
and a route march if full fighting
hit I shall be glad when my time
comes to leave this place, Dear

This war is going to be worse than
I thought some seem ~~to~~ to think
it won't last a month and some
say it will last three years our
officers told us this morning it
would be a hard and long war
we have been through the
mill since we have been here
from 5.30 in the morning to
about 9 at night with not much
to eat in the bargain Dear

if I never come home again I sh. leave
the boy in your charge and I know you
will do your best to him. I am ~~in~~ have
got to make my will ~~now~~ this afternoon
I shall make it out to you every thing
of what I possess. so if I go under and
you do not get anything you must
apply for it. Dear ~~if I get~~
killed in Active Service there will
be a medal for me somewhere and I
hope you will try and get it and keep
it for the boy to wear when he grows
up you cant write to me now
anywhere I am with that address
it is a good job I brought these
few stamps with me as we cant
get any here. I will write again
as soon as I get the chance

remember me to the men in the
harvest tell them I am alright
so far you must let
know to as I have not
got time to write I must close
now with fondest love to
you and Lizzie and remain
your ever loving

We carry a little book with us to
enter all payments and made to us,
and it has got a form of will in it