

H. T. Franconia  
at sea

21. 5. 16. Sunday

My dear Eric.

Well here we are on the way. I believe I'm allowed to tell you to "show here in France", Goodness knows where but we arrive at our port Tuesday morning & I suppose disembark that day & proceed by train or on our feet to our destination. This was in all so delightfully vague & we get accustomed to it. I suppose we shall go to some camp and then check the Division which has been considerably scattered. A new Brigade is to be formed & that must mostly come from England. We have sent off nearly all the troops from our islands & been relieved by garrison regiments - a nice bunch but who will shake up the local inhabitants to some extent. Already by now we left the virtues of the RVD were being recognized. No one ever seems to love us properly till we leave them & then they don't want us to go at all. I'm getting very fond of the RVD. No doubt the Division has improved at all recognition & now they are a fine lot & a fine disciplined body of men & I hope will give a good account of ourselves in France. This is a most comfortable ship. Of course I'm not a soldier. I always

am: & consequently the only person on board to do any work  
with the exception of the Adjutant who does most of it!  
Poor Frank spent 7 weeks in this very ship a year ago -  
when they were intending to capture the Peninsula  
with the RND and the Navy. A lot of things have  
happened since then. I'll let you know where I am  
when I see & I'm going to fall in on the mat  
daily when I see my Division & I'll get a few days  
leave. At any rate we feel we are  
getting nearer home & however beastly it will be &  
of course it will be beastly, at any rate we are  
back in civilization again: & if we can get over  
to the Home weekly why should not I yearly??  
Now get a meeting as regards lieutenant & so  
must come: it's very hot & we all have to  
wear lifebelts which are not cool. However  
the ship has an excellent brand of cocktails  
& we're a very cheery crowd!!! Cheer oh &  
the best of luck - I'm quite tired of  
the war -

Prof. C. H. Tilton

No mails usually me for weeks.

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1st House Bldg

B.E.F.

29.5.16.

My dear Eric.

Two letters from you are 14<sup>th</sup> & are  
18<sup>th</sup> - one 18<sup>th</sup> more or less official.

Please thank Bull, Hewitt & Coates &  
tell them I much appreciate all they say.  
You will hear us more about it till the  
end of the war from me but I did <sup>not</sup> want  
you to think I was keeping a man of  
my own way of thinking out of Parliament  
who could do something which I cannot  
to answer some of those impossible people  
with unpatriotic theories & speeches there.  
I am, as usual, most horribly overworked  
A new general by name Philcks of the  
60<sup>th</sup> who has had a Bde in France  
before has come to take command and  
as he has no staff at all, I am doing  
a kind of bear leader and all the work.  
We are being pushed up very soon but  
I don't expect will go in the trenches  
for some time as we've a lot to learn  
about French methods (of fighting!!!) -  
But I've got to form Bde H.Q. companies,

Equip everyone with transport, rifles, stones,  
& everything & the district is a scattered one.  
also exist in a general in the way of a  
Naval Board which are sometimes curious.  
He now knows that a Petty officer is not  
an Admiral & does not rank with a knight  
Colonel! What a life. I suppose one  
will at mes onward some day! All I  
want is a bit of leave - in fact a lot!  
I think I may get a week when  
his staff arrives and then I can get  
away. My general has promised & he  
knows I've had taken leave about leave.  
Now I'm turning the midnight it. I'm  
in a charming chateau & must make the  
best of a bed for I shall see me for  
some time again I expect. So long  
I'm very fit but don't want to go  
on fighting for 10 years more

Joseph  
C. C. C.

Enclosed a paper we brought out on  
Sanimon!!! I was not editor but  
censor.

# "Franconia Flashes"

H.M.T. "FRANCONIA."

MONDAY, MAY 22, 1916.

## NOTES ON THE VOYAGE.

BY THE EDITOR.

We congratulate ourselves on being once again at sea, for although we rather fancy ourselves for our late land work, there is no doubt the R.N.D. is at its best on its own element.

Talking of water, we can record few more delightful moments than when we had our first glass of beer on boarding the "Franconia."

We have noticed, with a certain amount of wonderment, that the more a British officer is suffering from the pangs of thirst, the more his soul longs for beer—not whiskey and soda or even lemonade, but "Beer." God Bless "Bass."

We congratulate the Captain and officers of the "Franconia" on the delightful yachting trip they are giving us. It is a great thing to be able to go to one's cabin and sleep with a mind free from worry as to one's fate during the night.

Some officers who have spoken with us tell us that the change of life is nearly too great for them. When we say change of life, we must explain that we mean the change between the life on the island of Lemnos and the fierce festivity of the "Franconia."

We are told a certain eminent surgeon on board has no further use for his bank-note case. We are sorry to hear the grave news and incidentally mention that the ship's barber sells a small treatise on Poker at the modest price of one shilling.

There will be a physical drill class at 3-0 a.m. (all officers attending with lifebelts) on the boat deck for those officers who find they are still cramped with overwork at the bridge table.

When we get to France we mean to make the inhabitants think me and you have not been on the Peninsular for some months for nothing.

And what about England? We have been there lately and found it was most necessary to learn the prohibition hours before landing. War is war! "Here's luck"!

General Trotman tells us that if the drum and fife band of the Hawke battalion plays "God save the King" again he will have the senior officers of the battalion put in irons.

We understand that Major Holmes, who has lately returned from Salonika on an expedition to secure greens for the R. N. Division will not be engaged in this important work in France.

We take this opportunity of thanking our contributors for their great work. At the same time we think it better to inform them that the Editor's sanctum no longer contains free beer.

## THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

- 1.—Has is got an adjutant or not?
- 2.—Where are the notices erected by the R.N.D.E., as we feel sure there must be something on the ship that has been made by the engineer?
- 3.—The name of the subaltern who made the General smile?
- 4.—How many of the cyclist company can ride bicycles and does the O.C. know how to mend a puncture?
- 5.—Who nearly arranged that the D.H.Q. should sail on the "Ionian"?
- 6.—If the Hawke battalion band has always practised "God save the King" in ragtime?
- 7.—What is the record number of speeches made by the second in command of the Hawke battalion after dinner and why was his seventh speech delivered in but one sentence?
- 8.—What was the speech about?

### AGONY COLUMN.

G.R.P.—Utterly cleaned out. Can you send me along a pony?—Brans.

Lonely Lieut.-Commander, (Bachelor) who has seen some service, wishes to meet a lady (unsophisticated if possible) on his return to London. Would be willing to sacrifice something in the great cause.

*Lady in a hole.*—Yes, we quite agree. Reading is the best place for you. All will be well.

Maiden, pure and simple, is desirous of making the acquaintance of temporary gentlemen returned from Gallipoli.—Address c. o. Winning Post.

Young lady, of hard face and gentle breathing is desirous to correspond with lonely soldier. One who has been "through it" preferred.

A blonde, anxious to do her bit, will be glad to hear from wounded officer. Empire Lounge, Leicester Square, after 7-0 o'clock.

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### STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

War Loan, 97½—Market strong.

Bully Beef, 104½—Rising market.

Maconochie, 67—No demand.

1st Field Dressings, 4½d.—Sluggish market on their contents, not always being suitable to meet the case.

### STUD NEWS.

HAWKE:

By IMBROS out of SIGHT.

BRADBURY:

By NOTE out of POCKET.

EMERSON:

BYE-ELECTION out of

JUICE OF A LEMON.

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### WAR NEWS.

London.

4 degrees West of Verdun the British were successful in taking 25 miles of trench. Rest of front 'nothing doing.'

Aviation.

Thirty-two enemy aeroplanes visited the South-east of England. 250 bombs were dropped. Regret to state haystack totally lost.

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### EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

On this, our first issue, we beg the indulgence of our *clientele*. We know we have many shortcomings, but we hope we have been happy enough to express the opinions, in a terse form, of the officers on board H.M.T. "Franconia."

This is one shilling a copy, gentlemen, and *damned cheap at the price.*

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"GOD SAVE THE KING."

Mr. Hanke Bald  
B.E.F.

31. 5. 16.

My dear Eric.

Your letter 28. May. Marvellous.  
Quite full in civilization again. Bless you!

I'm having the midnight oil & have written  
to Coates & Perris. I still hope to come

on leave within the next ten days but

I dare not say anything about it to mine

as I have been disappointed so often - &

probably shall be again! However I went

to the I.G.C. & lunched there to-day &

told them what I thought about it &

as I find a real friend there - he quite

agreed! & I live in great hopes. I'm

more than busy & can't write more -

all going well. They won't give me the

Bugate because I'd had no experience

in France & it is necessary I find

the fallipetti Campaigners have a lot

to learn. The methods of the Germans

differ much from the Turks! However I

shall know them soon - I expect by

better experience. My Joe is hinting that he'd  
like to see me go to bed - he's a real good  
chap & says he means to push me off  
on leave even if his staff doesn't turn  
up but I can't leave him with a Naval  
Brigade alone! Cheers Sh! I wish  
I could hear me on the telephone!!! as I  
don't suppose I'll be able to let anyone  
know if I at leave. anyhow it won't be  
for some days if then!

Joe  
Fisher, Lt. Col.



1st Handed Battalion

B.F.

30.6.16

My dear Louie

Very many thanks for your note. I should have written before but I have been extremely busy. I am awfully sorry you are still so sickly - it is really rather bad but I hope you will get off for a change. I'm writing now in the trenches waiting for the relieving battalion to come up. We've been here attached to another Division for 4 days and I can't say they've been too comfortable. The weather has been vile and consequently the mud & water has got above itself and above one's knees. I'm a heap of mud & look forward to a bath with much joy tomorrow about 10 am. as I don't expect to get bath tickets much before then. It's now 9-30 pm! One has to be particularly careful in one's letters from France so very news is very limited. Trenches here are a great change from Salisoli. Ours in Galipoli from a purely depressing point of view compared with Salisoli. But of course here we go right underground & I must

2.

say I don't like being my yards under  
ground & while in Gallipoli we could  
never dig down because we had no  
material to make dug outs. etc - I  
don't know at all what our future  
movements are - & I couldn't tell you  
if I did - We move our home  
almost daily! We leave where we  
arrive tomorrow, the next day but  
at any rate ac is better civilization  
than the Plimsouth and ac car  
get a paper less than a month old  
and a mail practically every day.  
It is a vast change up here to the  
comforts of home & the joys of  
London! I'm very well - but shall  
appreciate a night in bed. I'll  
try and get over & see you before - I  
haven't had a moment yet. I'll have  
to borrow or steal a car from someone's  
I do hope you'll be better soon it  
is when especially such a really  
painful trouble. Take care to  
look after yourself, my love - Remember  
with love  
Mama

For Estie

Hauke Bati

B.E.F.

9. July 1916.

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My dear Eric.

I'm afraid I haven't written since your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> but I've been really busy. We are out of the trenches & "back" and I'm probably kept on the job - but the results are being excellent & I'm glad to say that Bati is getting rapidly very good. The powers that be were not displeased with the work we did in the trenches & so we were there to be criticized - I am rather pleased - I am in the unfortunate position of not being able to tell you any news - I could not probably tell you any more than you know - anyhow I may not. I have met several old friends - during a few nights ago with the Corps Commander I found 2 of his ADCs are MPs - Duncanson & Locher Sampson - I haven't come across you

Walter Ut. I am always meaning to answer  
his letter. I hope he doesn't think me  
the wisest person on earth. All this  
Irish business is very upsetting. I'm  
even thinking of busting into print in the  
Morning Post. Apparently we poor devils  
who at any rate represent several  
thous and electors out in France or  
elsewhere are not to be consulted at  
all - I hope the next letter from  
you will not be in pencil or you will  
be much better. I was awfully sorry  
to hear about Charlie Simonds. This  
poker with you is a lot of good fellows.  
What a war! Write soon again &  
I'm sorry I can't write more often.  
I'm very well - the weather has been  
nice but 15 days lovely -

Frances Leslie.

Hawthorne Bald<sup>n</sup>

B.E.F

18.7.16

My dear Eric,

Just a line. I'm off  
to the trenches again tomorrow  
night. Breath, life! home  
batteries do Pond Semitide - but  
fun of excitement out here - but  
I don't like being below ground  
and chasing rats. I do like  
you are much better. Take  
great care of yourself. In  
cannot be shared from Reading  
I must get quite fit to carry on.  
I'll write in a letter to the M. Post

about the Irish question. If they  
put it in I hope you approve -  
It's really unanswerable and  
says that the private members  
must be ~~there~~ <sup>in the house</sup> before there can  
be any real or proper decision  
come to. otherwise it's not  
representative at all. With  
cheerish - I'm pretty busy

My  
Respect

23.7-16.  
Hawke Bay  
B. E. F.,

My dear Eric,

A magnificent box of chocolates arrived this morning & I & all the other HQ officers sealed them & found one eating them now. They are much appreciated. I assure you - in fact that it is but 10 am. The top layer has practically disappeared. We are still in the trenches & with the fine weather and comparative quietude of the Hun it is not so bad as it might be. The spirit of the men cheers me up too for they are so keen and do things without being told & the consequence is clean trenches, rifles & a zeal to exterminate Huns which is quite exhilarating! I got a letter from you 2 days ago from Estborne - It is rather lark but I am glad people are being firm with you. What should we do in Remy if you would prefer work? Can't be imagined. So long - Best regards to Mamma. The trenches don't help emergency - too much work. The trenches are perfect -

Hawke Bay

B.E.F.

4. Aug 1916

In the trenches

My dear Eric.

I feel very guilty but  
never writing is very difficult. Two letters  
of yours in front of me 20<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> -  
You must be running up a pretty bill  
at your expensive hotel! I suppose you're  
in Scotland now - there are worse  
places - trenches for instance though  
we are very fairly peaceable now  
& the weather is lovely but we spend  
6 days up & you wear off your  
clothes off or a decent night's rest.  
We have a new brand of Hun opposite  
to us. He is more energetic than  
the last lot and works us more  
with machine weapons & the horrible  
methods of warfare but I don't think  
he is likely to attack us. However  
one never knows. His ammunition  
has had rather a shock lately  
I think with Verdun & the Somme.  
Mia lot at home. I can't see how  
Asquith can go on with this  
Coalition Govt much longer. I only  
trust there is not an election. I do



not like this large addition to the  
members union in Reading. It's all  
very well & we know well the losses  
but proud for the great activity  
displayed by the union leaders - welfare  
of the people & increasing ways to  
help them. I know the ultimate  
goal & that is I recognize representative  
in Parliament & if the people  
think they have reason to be  
grateful to the leaders, they will  
try all the principles & vote for  
their candidate. I believe if there  
is an election, they will put me  
up. Next I will have to  
address the electors in the trenches  
& journey round the Berkshire Regiment.  
Well must cease - have a lot to do -  
I have about: nominally 902  
strong actually 522. All the work  
are taken for every conceivable job  
at behind the line. It's a perfect  
disgrace & I'm getting very fed up.  
Here it takes quite 25 men behind the  
line to put one in the firing line -  
Cheer up - the game has to  
be played. I was an At Britling  
decide. Not well after - all right again  
now  
for Leslie.

Hawke Bay

11 - 8 - 16.

My dear Eric.

Just a line - we go to the  
benches again tomorrow & then, as far as  
I can see remain in benches indefinitely!  
I hope there is no chance of our being  
sent South - I wish there were as  
this continued bench life is most  
distressing & you are surely the  
one shot at! There is little sleep &  
a great deal of work & responsibility.

I wish I were you, even though you

are sent, but 5 weeks in Scotland  
at this time of the year sounds  
too good to be true and the Trossachs  
also - though they are always pretty dull  
except for the scenery. Jim letter

from Vegas most interesting. My  
admirant is a violent Socialist  
being a young Oxford man &  
I have given it him to read!

I wonder if I shall see you working  
in the ranks of the 205<sup>th</sup> Berkshire

(2)

one day. Who knows? He was quite  
may take everyone whatever their  
infirmities or businesses be we  
finish & we shall finish from this  
end! It may seem a long way - about  
time - or if we can believe that Russia  
that ought to upset Austria somewhat.  
The only possible early end is for Austria  
to clutch Germany over & sue for a  
peace by herself - otherwise it's another  
write & heaven help us!!! Our eyes  
cheer & well but tired of nuisance-  
-weepers. Most annoying things. They  
Oh we are so much work - knock you  
parapet down & you build it up - then  
bang it goes again - well cheer up.  
My love to Ben Leonard. I'll  
shoot you a postcard up there.

Joe Leslie

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Stanke Bato

BE7

22. Aug 1916

My dear Eric,

Many thanks for yours of the  
13<sup>th</sup>. I see to my intense regret in the  
Berks Chronicle the death of Arthur  
Sturmonds. I am most awfully sorry  
and send you and all the members  
of your family my most sincere  
sympathy. It will be a very heavy  
loss to us & we shall miss his  
cheer & sympathetic presence in the  
Wellington Club greatly. I am glad  
I saw him when home. He looked  
extremely well then & one little  
thought he was to be taken away  
so soon. Please tell your governor  
how sorry I was to hear the news  
& it was only my absence from home  
& ignorance of the news which  
prevented me sending a tribute at  
his funeral. I see the Gas  
workers union in Reading is 5000  
strong now. This means only  
one thing & that is that with  
election will & must be a  
fight between the moderates & the  
extremists. I don't think it should or

(2)

right like a fight between, as you say,  
Capital & labour because a lot of  
the labour is on our side & not on  
the efficiency side. We're out of the  
trenches for our 6 days or rather  
we're gone back to other trenches  
about 600 yards behind the line -  
The men are in dugouts & I live  
in what was once a village. I had  
a dugout but could stand it no  
longer so have now got a room  
which has 2 walls made into 4  
and passed an excellent night there  
last night. Today Tuesday. We go  
back again Thursday. It's a  
monotonous life & the strain is  
rather bad especially the 6 days  
in. I suppose they will do  
something soon & then there  
will be no lament about monotony!  
Well cheer up with again soon. Take  
great care of yourself & tell your  
Madame I offer her all my moral  
support in making you keep quiet  
& get quite fit again. I'm extremely  
well & leading a pious and  
simple life & I think no fault of  
my own

W. Christie,

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HAWKE BATTN  
ROYAL DIVISION  
No. 4916.  
Date 3/9/16

My dear Eric.

Aight to have written before but  
really I write all day: except when I'm  
walking about muddy trenches avoiding  
minnies and other mis-entions of the  
devil! Your last letter from Benmore  
here - many thanks - also the P.C. from  
Dobk Leonard - Very trying! You must be  
having an extremely peaceful & pleasant  
time. I don't get it - feel beastly  
well even in all the mud wet &  
damp dug outs - don't know how long it  
will last as well this weather is the  
limit & one lives practically in the  
open air except when in deep dug outs  
which smell like nothing on earth. We're  
"out" at present in trenches - I'm a  
key mined shape which they shell  
periodically - at the moment I'm in  
our "mess room" It has no windows &  
no door & there is a steady drip from  
several places in the roof. We go up  
to 7 days of air to morrow - with a  
key attenuated company. Tell me  
with you if you get any of my letters  
opened & examined by censor & if so only

(2)

Will send me the envelopes back. I'm having  
a strap on - I don't know if I can  
claim any privileges as an MP for  
my correspondence. I don't want to  
particularly but I do object to being  
made a bit by the Base Censor -  
who seems to delight in opening all  
my letters for perusal. I've  
already got a good many envelopes!  
I'm really glad you are so much  
better. Now keep so and do not  
overdo it when you get back to  
work. I hear from really good  
sources that the highest powers are  
here believe they have the Hun-  
dred & most fortunate developments  
may be expected at an early moment  
lets hope its true & we can all  
come home. I'll have to have a holiday  
when I return! before politics and  
shall also have to take a very anxious  
survey of the financial political  
situation which is somewhat  
serious. Cheers & the best of luck,  
Wesley  
Leslie

Hawke B<sup>n</sup>

B-E-7.

15.9.16.

My dear Eric

Did I write & thank you for your  
cable. I forget. anyhow here many thanks  
also for your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup>, your  
cable arrived 2 days after being sent -  
not so bad. I had an extremely  
wise letter from Charles Stewart on behalf  
of the Association & a lot of letters which  
I've never been able to answer. I'm  
half as you may imagine very pleased  
about the C. H. E. more than I  
can say as I was beginning to believe  
the poor old RND was going to be  
left out of everything. I've work  
apparently busy - now suffers the  
"out" for 6 days but as far as I  
can see, I have a new people  
time "in" - I've washed off my  
legs every day through wages of  
benches and then the official  
correspondence is enough to keep  
you heart in this place. I keep  
a increasing my office staff to  
try and keep pace with it  
& the power that to keep on  
taking my office staff & giving  
them commissions or some other



jobs. I'm really annoyed about the  
Base Censor - may the arse be the  
envelope you sent me. I'm getting  
quite a collection. I see Murray  
of Stibaux is saying that all the Ps  
should return. I don't know that he  
is not right from a national point  
of view but naturally we are not  
coming back unless ordered - in  
fact we can't - as far as I see it  
we are just as much under orders  
as Private John Smith & can't  
pick or choose for ourselves - which is  
just as well. Don't waste the  
best of luck. I'm delighted you  
are getting on well - keep well!  
& take great care of yourself

Yours

L. Shi

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8/9/16

My dear Sir -

Many thanks for words of  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> from Braemar. Having in the  
reflected glory of 'Royalty' well - I wish I  
were there. I suppose you have seen  
they've made me a C.M.G. Much to  
my surprise & great to my pleasure -  
so please address me properly. I'm  
really delighted & don't disguise the  
fact: principally really because the wife  
will be impressed and also I think  
Reading with joy - or some of it - I  
honestly did not expect it because for  
some unaccountable reason I was not  
mentioned in the last Gahipshi despatch  
when my own parent told me himself  
he had put me in. I was feeling a  
bit sure about it but alas not now -  
I'm glad they've done something for the  
R.R.D. at least - not much but  
something: & I hope for more for my  
officers & men out here. One of them  
has already got a Military Medal &  
I'm hoping deserved it. I'm awfully  
sorry to hear of all your family troubles.  
Your parents must be having a pretty

(2)

hard time. I'm in the trenches & the pros  
for some unaccountable reason have just  
been playing like anything. Fredness knows  
why. I'm hardly busy - have a stunt on -  
which means endless work & what with  
being in the trenches & looking after this,  
I get little sleep & no time at all - I'll  
try & write the letters you mention !!! but  
you know the difficulties. I only hope  
you can read by scraps. Cheers  
& I hope you are really quite fit &  
with keeps so

Frederic  
Collier

Hawke B<sup>n</sup>

B 97

23.9.16.

My dear Eric

Your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
just arrived. I hope to goodness  
they don't put you in the ranks  
of the Army at all! What  
nonsense it is: but I'm sure  
your medical men will put  
the kibosh on it all. Did I  
tell you we've been taken out  
of the line & the future presents  
all sorts of possible & probable  
air combat & honors!!! We're  
training now which seems  
to consist in pinning parties  
to go everywhere & on all sorts  
of jobs and shifting whils -  
but I understand we are to  
have at least 6 days - perhaps  
more - all in the air. Thanks  
goodness it has stopped raining &  
today it is bright & clear. My  
2<sup>nd</sup> in Command has just left me to

Stanbe B<sup>n</sup>

29.9.16.

My dear Eric.

Many thanks for yours of  
25<sup>th</sup> from Junior Carlton. I'm  
killy glad you are so much better  
now for goodness sake keep so &  
take care of yourself. If you  
go on overdoing it again, you'll  
all crack up again - but if you  
work at  $\frac{1}{2}$  the pressure, you'll  
probably go along alright. There's  
a lecture but then I speak  
<sup>as</sup> an interested person because  
I can't have the Chairman of  
the Ass<sup>t</sup> laid too often on  
a bed of sickness. Ye gods  
we're training & all putting  
again for the benches! Never  
worked so hard in my life -  
by every man being down  
on the road with schemes  
involving immense preparation  
overnight to carry out. The day

(2)

after tomorrow is Sunday - & I believe we are to have a day of rest - which we all need. I believe they make this so-called training so stiff that you'd wish to go anywhere to get out of it! However it keeps me very fit. After many fittings - I have come to a temporary anchorage in a chateau & it's most comfortable when I see it! Hope you have seen my M<sup>o</sup> & she's looking fit. She's been having too many of these headaches to please me. I wish I could get home but no chance at present.

Best of luck - don't let Colonel go a full Private - I am not certainly fit yet

Yours

C. H. E.

Hawke B<sup>u</sup>

B.E.7.

8.10.16.

My dear Fri.

Very many thanks  
for yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> just received. Oh how  
the wind. it's beyond anything, &  
it's always raining. What a war!  
I wish I were at the end of a phone  
& could have a sunny chat with  
you. I dislike this nomadic life  
in winter & shall dislike it more.  
I think very soon we shall be  
even more uncomfortable than we  
are at present which is saying  
a good deal. You want a  
constitution like an ox and I  
seem to have one for I never felt  
better in my life than I do now  
in spite of doing things daily which  
would in ordinary events lead to  
Pneumonia pra aeternitate. I'm

(2)

glad they didn't catch you as a  
Conscript. What a force. but  
then it's just as well they should  
miss no one. I may not like you  
when I am but it's where a  
lot of traffic is! and one  
can't cross a road for half an  
hour because of the continuous  
stream of motor homes etc.  
Never saw such a place &  
every road knee deep in mud  
& holes. I'm grossly overworked  
as usual as they're taking my  
2<sup>nd</sup> in command to command  
a Battalion and I have it all  
to do myself, and have some  
difficulty in keeping these  
young officers in their places  
& making them do their  
work properly. Sometimes  
I'm not entirely popular  
with them I know that. Yes  
I know P.A. Sergeant well -



(3)

He is a real good Tory & will  
make a good mayor. I really  
don't see what I can send for you  
to publish. I'm allowed to  
say nothing about our doings as you  
know and the laws of the land are  
rightly very strict on this point -  
I thought you had a hand in  
the Leslie Poem of Lady Dickie  
Poores'. Tu Bute. No chance  
of leave for over a month yet  
probably longer. We shall be  
very busy for some time, as far as  
I can see and likely to start being  
busy in a few days. I personally  
think this Ad war will go on  
till this time next year in spite  
of optimistic opinions I hear  
to the contrary. I only wish I  
could think it would end  
satisfactorily before then! Best  
of luck & write again soon,

(4)

Have you have wanted H P's  
subscription. Another 25% on  
the Australian Income Tax.

Do you know of me wanting a  
nice house or one who  
wishes adopt a family?

Love to all  
My  
Respect

---

Hawshu B<sup>n</sup>

B. E. F.

15-10-16.

My dear Eric

Here's a short Sunday  
letter. All my men are away on  
working parties so I am having a  
fairly peaceful day except for the  
usual succession of squibs each  
of which generally contradicts the  
other. We're off again I believe, tomorrow  
or next day & more again - Things  
may be very busy before long - Have  
you seen one Dr. Gen? Paris has  
been badly hit? It happened 2  
days ago but he is going on well  
I believe - Poor Sketchley a great  
friend of mine and also of  
Frank's was killed by the same shell.

(2)

It's very bad luck especially now and  
we shall miss them both very much  
indeed. They know the Division  
better than anyone & it's a Division  
that wants some knowing - but  
it's all right when you do know it.  
We've got a new man called  
Schute who has not joined up  
yet. I'm told the proper way to  
pronounce the name is with an i  
and not a u. I hope you are  
well keeping fit & well now.  
We shall I hope get some  
leave some day but it is a  
bit too far. If we really go into  
winter quarters like Caesar we have

(3)

or so & are put to trench work. I shall  
push forward to come home to attend  
brig work and come out again in  
the spring. I really can do a lot  
more at home than I can sitting  
in a muddy trench. I wish I  
could give you news but I can't -  
not abroad to. Saw a demonstration  
of the Tanks test with wonderful  
success. I suppose the  
Boche will produce a Super  
Tank and then the Tanks will  
fight it out & the old Infantry  
used only to consolidate position  
won by the Tanks. Its going to  
be a sea fight or land war

(4)

future. wonderful thing this war.

Have you seen my M<sup>rs</sup>? I hope  
so. He is very disturbed that we had  
may have to go. With really have  
to shut up the house then + take  
a small furnished one near  
you somewhere. Cheers!

Sam Russell - Its nearly along

training

Jay  
Lester

24.10.16.

My dear Ori

Oh a line. Were having a  
pretty hard time and I can't find  
a moment to write - also it is difficult  
to get ones letters off. Were never had  
a harder time & the men are very  
tired & a great deal more is expected  
of them in the very near future.  
However they are really splendid and  
do their level best & keep wonderfully  
cheery in spite of the most unpleasant  
circumstances and the most appalling  
weather. Ruined villages are not  
warm places & mud is very  
tiring. Some day we shall settle  
again: then I'll write you at  
length & hope to give you some  
news: I hope the best but a few  
days will tell & I will probably know  
before I can write of Don't hint to  
home anything unusual though she  
already suspects I think & is very  
worried. Love Remember me to all in  
Reading -

Yours  
John Carter

HAWKE BATTN  
ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

No. B57

Date 7-11-16.

My dear Eric,

A letter of yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> (I think!)  
I have been working like a slave in  
the most appalling conditions. Really  
I don't remember how we were worked daily  
from trenches & into back again. Taken  
out for a rest which lasts 12 hours after  
a 8 mile march - chased back again -  
all owing to the weather which if it  
would clear would let us carry on with  
our original intentions! Very dangerous  
& really we don't know whether I  
want them to come off or not. I'm  
so tired of arranging everything & then all  
put off. Yesterday definite decision  
cancelled again this evening. Poured all  
day. I'm writing about 1 mile behind  
the line in a shattered building & all  
the rain is coming through. It is a  
typical "we are living in a  
pombomb" & we all look like  
Barringtons - as we left our  
caps behind & my height steel  
helmets so I'm reduced to a  
cap & goggles. What a life. The poor



HAWKE BATTN  
ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

No. ....

Date.....

(2)

were have been having a rotten  
time & are really worn out  
& I'm a shocking lot of  
sickness. Not really surprising.

What a life! Well. I'd hope some  
day for leave - when the powers that  
be agree with Jassart & Napier who  
always went into winter quarters!!!

I hope you arrives on the 15<sup>th</sup> will  
go off & well. I only wish I could  
come but alas! I see no chance -

Remember me to all & tell them if  
I have anything worth doing it in, I  
will think of you every evening &  
drink all your healths. Kindly  
keep fit & well. Cheer up. I'm  
sorry you though why I don't get  
pneumonia daily. I can't think

From  
Glasgow  
11/11

Hawke B<sup>N</sup>

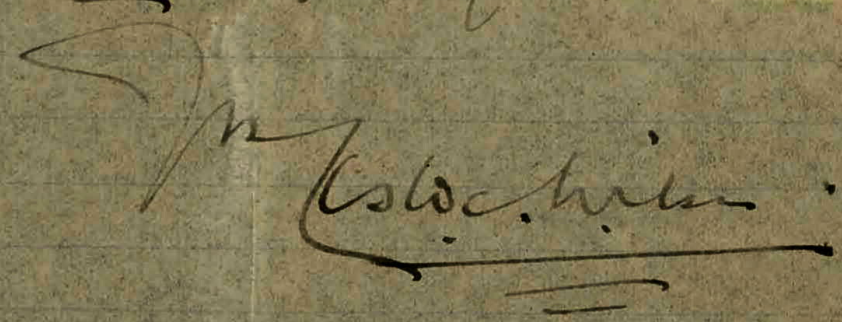
B27

28.10.16.

My dear Sir.

owing to the most inclement  
weather! back to billets. Must have  
deep everywhere & impossible to move.  
Thank you for your gift! & a pie  
which I'll eat in this somewhat  
battered establishment here as my  
Head Quarters. For letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
received today. I'm very glad your  
horse is pretty well broken on. I hope  
you'll keep it on hand! I wish I  
could be at your little dinner to the  
"Wilsonites"! No doubt but I  
for. I really must get some leave  
before long but see no chance till  
another month or least is passed!  
I am very glad you think horse is looking  
fit & Peter bonny. I should like  
to have seen him in his dark  
suit very much. This is life here.  
I thought I'd seen up in  
Salisbury but this looks exactly  
I'd seen before sky high. It's  
wonderful what human nature  
can stand. I'm delighted  
to have Major Morris as my

second in command. Do you know him? He  
 was agent to Warriner at Boulder. A  
 real good straight man but no second  
 in command are allowed to take part in  
 any active operations - ready to take the  
 place of those that do!! 'Cheery  
 prospect'. Sir D.H. Civil came to  
 see us to day - He is a most  
 delightful man + cheered the men  
 up a lot. Considering where we  
 are it was very good of him! must  
 stop - so called dinner coming in -  
 Cheers all, Best of luck


 M. C. Stockman