

France

22nd/12/16

Dear May,

I received your letter dated Oct 21th and was pleased to hear that you all are alright and are having a good season. It will be quite a change after two dry years. We wasn't too happy a family at sea for the ^{first} week or so but we improved a great deal with a calm sea. I havn't dropped across Tom yet though all the time I am keeping a good look out for him. We have met a few of the other ^{Paras} boys Alf McTague looks quite well a little thinner if anything. ^{I have} ~~met~~ ^{met} Jack Campbell ^{Kingsdown} on several occasions and he is doing alright and looks well. Some of the other lads dropped across Jack Campbell ^{West} Parsona and reckoned he looked alright. J. Wilson. W Richards and Ain Grey are in England wounded and are about alright again. The two Davidsons was in England when we was there and George told

us that Bill Caird was killed I
don't ^{know} where he got his news from but
I am glad to say it is all wrong. ~~For~~
I got a letter the other day from
R. Glanville and he mentioned that he
had just been down to see Billy who
is in a Hospital at Croydon near London.
Billy has had a rough time with Enteric
Fever Roland reckoned Billy was looking
not so bad now. We have got to put our
addresses in the middle of our letters now.
All of us N° 21811 Rfn. D. W. Fraser. local boys
are in the one D. Company. company and
this address will 1st Battalion. find any
one of us of course N. Z. R. B. the old
address will find us France. but this is
where we are attached. Roland is going
to an officers school and is going in
for a commission he expects to get
it at Christmas. It will be quite different
to see the grass looking nice and green

from last year I know where O'Brien
is alright and heard that he would
have to get out of it because he would
do anything. They must have had a real
set too at Bob Parry's tin hitting a real
tanger. I suppose there would be some sore
heads next day. We have had two or three
light shifts of snow since we have been
in France and the cold is rather severe
at times. The weather mostly all the
time is drizzling with very little
sunshine and mud and slush every
where except on the duck boards in
the trenches. It is about time I brought
this to a close hoping this finds you
all quite with best wish

I Remain

yours Sincerely

D.W. Fraser

[Signature]

France.

May 2nd 1917.

Dear May.

I received your letter dated Feb 4th and was pleased to hear that you are all well at home. Apparently you have had an other dry season. We have been getting lovely weather here of late and the country is starting to look pretty. I have been looking for Tom this last six months but so far I have never had the luck to drop across him so far. I have met practically all the other local boys and they all look as well as could be expected, Our little troupe of local boys are well so far. Bill Scott, Mrs Stowells brother was round seeing me about a fortnight^{ago} and he got rather a severe shrapnel wound in the knee. The same night after he got home. I think he looked rather thinner than he used to if anything. Tommy Humphreys also got rather a severe leg wound a couple of nights ago.

I suppose if the ballots keep going on we will see all the girls as well as the old chaps doing the work on the farms, labour must be getting very scarce there now. The little plots of crops are looking very well round here and gives the country side round here rather a pretty appearance. I think the most of the boys would be quite satisfied if this game soon came to an end. There is very little for us to write about out here so I must bring this to a close. Hoping this finds you all well and wish to be remembered to the family of you.

your

Sincere friend

D.W.F.

Censored w/ Letter

Nov 1st 1917.
N.Z. Command Depot.
Codford. Wilts.

Dear May.

I received your welcome letter a few days ago and was pleased to hear that you were all quite well then. Tommy Humphries who used to train Hutton's horses is here, also W Richard of Salisbury, the other day I met Jack McSwheeny from Adair he was greatly excited with himself in fact at first I thought he was going to throw his arms around and kiss me, I am not stretching it fair Dink Um, Jack got a flesh wound in the back, he had only been in the trenches two days, and by what he was saying he got a great fright. J Hutton got a light wound in the arm, and he did not expect to get to Blighty, it is hard luck for George. Pearce Grey will be back to NZ about the New year at least that is what he expects. Your Tom has a good job in France, it would do me quietly, I tried very hard in France to dig him up, but I had no luck, hoping he is ~~is~~ keeping the very best. I met Bob Sutherland while I was at Hornchurch, he told me that Tom had filled out into a fine big man and that you would be quite

proud of him. Bob had a good many little bits of shell just beneath the skin, Bob was looking fairly well, but it struck me that he had aged a lot his hair is getting quite gray. I had nearly forgotten about Bob Campbell of Kingsdown and Bob Coupland of Beaconsfield, Coupland looks very old, he is called dad by the boys, Bob Campbell is looking well. The single men must be getting very scarce in N.Z. I am sorry that the married men are going to be called up, hoping they will make trouble and refuse to go into training, there is very few of the boys over here wish to see the married men called up. I think if they have to come to that in a small country like N.Z. to get a few extra men it is time they skied the towel, some of the men that they are sending across to England are cripples and that is worse still, for all that I have no time for a real shiker. I was sorry to hear that your family had influenza, hoping you are all quite well now. At present I am a mess orderly, dishing up the grub for the boys. They wanted some Vicker Machine Gunners the other day so I put my name in, I don't know what they will do with me, the left thigh is still weak. I don't

think it will ever be the same. I think if I
wasnt looking so well I would have got to NZ
out of it, & I would like to spend Xmas in
England this year, I think there is every hope of
me being able to. It will be my third smack
the next time if I get it, ~~the~~ he was sudden,
one he started on me, he got home on me
with pieces from two shells within two hours
hoping he dosnt register more than one smacking
up the next time ~~for me~~ that is if it is to
come, I think it is time I rung off.

Hoping you are all keeping the very best,
wishing to be remembered to the family.

With best regards

Nº 1811 Rfn DW Fraser
D Coy. 1st Batt. NZRB.
NZ. Command Depot.
Codford. Walto.
C/o GPO Wellington

On Active Service.

Miss. M. Watson.

Otipua

Timaru.

New Zealand.



Letters from
J. W. Fraser
1916 & 1917
to Watson Family