

19 May 1780.

New England
etc.

Mrs W. A. Graham.

"The Lodge".

Hamilton.

Auckland.

New Zealand.

Telegram—
GINGER, RUGELEY CAMP

OFFICERS' MESS,

1st Res. Inf. Bgde. J.O.C.,

Howitzer Lines,

RUGELEY CAMP,

STAFFORD

Thursday March 16th 1916.

My dear Mother.

Just a line tonight, as we pass along in our daily work, to let you know that I am still alive and well, still getting fat, still quite a good boy. (as boys go now-a-days), still making excellent progress with my work, and still no nearer active service (apparently) than ever I was. Quite a satisfactory state of affairs you must admit. The last letter that I received from you I have already answered I think, last Sunday week March 5th being the date of my last letter I think. Since then nothing of importance has happened to me, and I am progressing slowly but surely, and, if ever the chance comes for me to see my Country, I can assure you that I will be able to fulfill my part well & truly. For it has been a very excellent training that we have all had up here, in the muddy Howitzer Lines, in muddy old Rugeley Camp. Rugeley, Rugeley, we all love it—Rugeley.

Lately I have been attending a bombing course, and I have been learning all about the various types of grenades & bombs now in use in the British Armies. Also, have I been learning how to throw them. It's no good an officer trying to teach what he himself cannot do.

Last week-end I was in Manchester, as the guest of a brother officer of this T.O.C., a Jimmy Crawford, a very nice laddie of Scottish origin. His people are exceedingly nice people, and they were very good to me, and I am going again on a very pressing invitation for the week-end March 25-26th. That is, in ten days time. On Sunday last I met some other Scotch people now living in Manchester, a family by the name of Cheiklejohn; two nice girls were there, the younger one of which is engaged to be married to "Jimmy"; so we had quite a good time in a nice quiet way, and if I go again in ten days time, I have not the least doubt that I shall see these two charming young ladies again.

We had a nice concert in No 3 T.M.C.H. last night for the officers of the 1st & 2nd Infantry Brigade T.O.C.'s, and a good concert it was too. Some ladies from Stafford & Wolverhampton, two cities close by, dressed like the "Follies" used to be, & calling themselves "Picnnettes" entertained us, & jolly nice girls they were too.

One of them, Nancy she called herself in one of her songs, and a specialist in "rag-time", was most charming, & I think nearly all of us fell in love with her.

Very sad to be sure, but we enjoyed it O.K.

We have had several concerts like this since I came here last November, but last night's was the best by far. "Sunshine" is going to work in a munition factory.

The old & celebrated "West-end Skating Rink" of Glasgow is now an up-to-date munition factory, specially fitted up for girls only. "Sunshine" had the choice of acetylene-welding or lathe-turning, & on my recommendation she has decided to learn the latter. The Ladies are doing wonderful work in all the munition centres of this country now. The men are right out of it. Love to yourself & all. Cedric.