

1. A small personal card 3ins X 1 3/4ins. On the face is printed

Mr Gordon D.L. Smyth,
20th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles.

On the reverse is written

*To Madge
From Gordon*

2. A picture post card showing 3 roses in a vase. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 44 Archway Road, Upper Holloway, London N. It is post marked Field Post Office []5 with the date 23 SP 15. There is also a censors stamp number 1373. The name V. Lefebvre has been written across the lower left hand side of the address panel. The message reads:

Many thanks to you and Lizzie for both parcels. Both were very acceptable, especially the last, as both grub and cash were very scarce at the time. I'll have enough candles and pomade to do me for a long time. I now have as many pair of socks as I want. Those last were very nice ones. I hope that you are quite well again now. You didn't say how you were in your last two letters. I probably won't have time to write for a week or perhaps more so don't be anxious. J.A.S.

3. A picture post card showing a young woman holding a large earthenware vase. It is addressed to Mrs O. Hegarty, c/o Mrs Smyth, 44 Archway Road, Upper Holloway, London N. It is post marked Field Post Office 15 with the date 23 SP 15. There is also a censors stamp number []3. The name V. Lefebvre has been written across the lower left hand side of the address panel. The message reads:

I suppose that by this time you'll be back again but as I dont know your address I'm sending this indirectly. I hope you had a good time. The weather was all right if it was anything like what we've been having. Thanks awfully for the tin of clotted cream. Two other fellows and I []jeid together and we all agree its champion stuff. It makes a great substitute for butter too. I suppose you'll be very busy just now. John.

4. A letter from John [Smyth], Norfolk War Hospital, to his mother. It is dated 26th December 1915. There is no envelope.

Dear Mother,

Many thanks for yours and Madge's letters and for the Omar Khayyam and calendar which arrived yesterday. The O.K. and calendar are awfully nice little things.

I was awfully glad to see Dick. I could scarcely believe my eyes as naturally I never expected anyone as I was coming on at such a rate. Although I felt pretty rotten at first I never was one half so bad as in Mrs Lynasses.

Thanks awfully all for the lovely grapes and[stroked out] cigarettes, chocolates and books. You shouldnt have thought of spending so much money. They were all most acceptable as I'm just at that stage where I like odds and ends of nice things to eat.

I hope you all had a nice time together at Xmas. It was a pity Jim couldn't manage to get away. His Xmas alone would be very quiet.

We had quite a lively time here you know a good many of the patients are able to be up and they and the nurses made things hop. They got me up on a wheel chair in the evg and took me to a big concert given by the patients and staff. It was very good indeed.

I suppose that Richard will have explained to you that I wont get home until I am all right again and then only for 10 days. What the sister said about being sent on to another hospital I don't understand as some of the fellows have been here over a month and have never heard of it. I must ask some of the nurses sometime.

I haven't got any of the letters or things sent to me in France since I went to hospital Dec 9th so that a lot of good things have gone west by all accounts. Its a pity but they won't be lost as I left or rather sent word for them to be divided among fellows in the section who I knew wouldn't get any parcels. Notwithstanding the fact that I hadn't the pleasure of eating them I thank you all very much for them.

The soldiers in hospital in Belfast seem to be having a great time. The Norwich people don't excite themselves so much about our welfare. Ofcourse this place is no end bigger than all the Belfast hospitals. I must close now. Wishing you all a happy New Year. I know this letter will be read by all at home and I hope you'll excuse me writing separately,

Your loving son
John

P.S. I'm surprised to hear you're worrying about me. You should be jolly pleased I'm safe where I am. J.A.S.

5. A post card headed On Active Service and addressed to Mrs. M.F.D. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, Ireland. It is post marked [Field] Post Office with the date 24 JA 16. There is also a censors stamp number 20. The name V. Lefebvre has been written across the lower left hand side of the address panel. Above the message has been written, France, Sunday 23rd. Jan 1916. The message reads:

Very many thanks for letter and parcel received. Glad to hear that the kit had arrived safely and also that John had got another of the parcels sent on from France all right. We enjoyed the cake etc. very much.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew J.M. Butler.

6. A letter dated 15 Feb 1916 from Gordon [Smyth] to John [Smyth]. There is no envelope.

My Dear John,

Thanks so much for parcel which I received safely some time ago The contents were very acceptable Thanks also for post card. I am sorry that I have been so long in acknowledging, but I have been vey busy of late.

The thaw has set in here and things are in a bit of a mess. I hope that it will not start freezing again. I suppose that you are hard at work again. I hope that you will get on well. I had a parcel from Mother. It contained sweets and a pair of drawers. The sun is shining brightly at present and it is quite warm. The only thing is, it gets very cold at night.

I have absolutely no news so that I think that I will dry up

With love
from
Gordon

I will write to Willie in a few days GS.

7. A picture post card showing a sailing boat on a river. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University Street, Belfast and is post marked Norw[ich] 8.30pm 20 FB 16 and postaged due 1/2d Belfast 22 FB 16. There is also a stamp stating Posted by wounded soldier, Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Nor[wich]. The message reads:

You will see that I am coming on in great style. I am at present propped up in bed and am writing on an invalid table. The stitches were taken out today and I feel quite well. You never say how you are. Many thanks for [] letter etc. You probably [] PC from me from this on. John.

This is on the Broads [].

8. A picture post card of Norwich Cathedral, Ethelbert Gate. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University Street, Belfast. The post mark is not clear but the time and date are 8.30pm 26 MR 16. The message is headed N W H [Norfolk War Hospital?], Sunday, and reads:

Dear Mother,

Thanks awfully for the fruit you had sent me. It was awfully nice and had not suffered from the journey. May Cork's brother has had a lot of trouble with me. He certainly knows good fruit. Did I tell you that Mina and Heg brought me a beautiful lot too. I eat a tremendous lot. I am writing Lizzie. I hope the sciatica has quite disappeared. Keep the P.P.C. [picture post card?] please. Goodbye till Sat. Your loving son John.

9. A picture post card with a drawing of a wounded, and rather cheerful, soldier in blue hospital uniform. Below it is printed "Ow's Yourself?" It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast and the post mark gives the time and date as 12.15 AM, 31 MAR 16. The message is headed N W H [Norfolk War Hospital?], Thursday, and reads:

Dear Mother,

I won't be home tomorrow afterall. I probably will though within the next day or two but dont expect me until you see me. Whenever I arrive I'll get Clarkes rung up. Best love, John.

10. A picture post card showing the interior of Norwich Cathedral. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University Street, Belfast with the post mark Thorpe, Norfol[k], 12.15, 3 AP 16. The message is headed N W H [Norfolk War Hospital?], Sunday, and reads:

Will be home on Wednesday morning in charge of an orderly. I think we will travel by Holyhead. If I don't arrive dont be annoyed as you see it has already been put off twice. Zeps were overhead on Friday. No damage done. Hope you are all doing well. John.

11. A telegram handed in at Norwich at 10.38 and received in Belfast at 12.38 on 14 AP 16. It is addressed to Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

Arrive Saturday via Fleetwood 6 am John.

12. A telegram handed in at Folkestone at 9.51 and received in Belfast at 10.28 on 16 JU 16. It is addressed to Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

Arrived Safely in Folkestone Crossing to France today Gordon.

13. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 87, 23 JU 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D.L. Smyth and is dated 21/6/16.

14. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office R.36, 23 JU 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon and is dated 22/6/16.

15. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office T.29, 30 JU 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D.L. Smyth and is dated 27th June 16.

16. The first page of a letter dated 27th June 16. There is no envelope. It is in the hand writing of Gordon Smyth and reads:

My dear Mother

I have not recd a letter from you yet but expect one every day. The postal service to France is very bad and I believe about 1/3 of all the letters never come right through.

I had a letter today from Eric. Newtownards seems to be rather dull at present. Nearly everyone seems to have gone on some course or another. I am having a fine time here, the weather is lovely and I have not too much to do. Hazlett of Foyle came out here with us and I know a good many chaps. I saw S.B.B. Campbell ...

17. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office T.29, 30 JU 16. It is addressed

to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated 22nd June. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon and is dated 28th June 16.

18. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 87, 4 JY 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated 26th June. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon Smyth and is dated 2nd July 16.

19. A Field Service Post Card post marked Fie[ld Post Of]fice 87, [?] JY 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated 26th June. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon and is dated 4th July 16.

20. A Field Service Post Card post marked Fiel[d Post Office] 87, 7 JY 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D.L. Smyth and is dated 5th July 16.

21. Part of an unsigned letter in the handwriting of Gordon Smyth dated 5th July 1916. The envelope is headed On Active Service and is post marked Field Po[st Of]fice 7 JY 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. There is also a censors stamp but the details are unclear. The letter reads:

My Dear Mother

Just a few lines to let you know that I am quite well. I have recd. I think 3 letters from you since I came out. The post is very bad and sometimes one does not get a letter for two or three days.

The weather here at present is rather showery but after rain the ground dries up quickly and in a few hours the dust is flying again. I hope that you are not working too hard and are taking good care of yourself.

22. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 87, 8 JY 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon and is dated 7th July 16.

23. A Field Service Post Card post marked Army Post Office R.36, 13 JY 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated 30th June? Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon Smyth and is dated 12th July 16.

24. A printed invitation card measuring about 5ins X 4ins. At the top is the crest of the Royal Irish Rifles with the Roman numerals XX beneath the motto Quis Separabit. Hand written sections are given in italics. It reads:

Lieut-Colonel T.V.P. McCammon
and the Officers
20th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles
request the honour of
Mrs Smyth and party's
*company at Regimental Sports and Afternoon Tea at Newtownards Camp
on Wednesday the 12th of July 1916 at 2 oclock P.M.*

R.S.V.P.
The President Officers Mess.

25. A picture post card showing a young child waving. The scene has been taken in a studio with the young girl standing in front of a backdrop showing the edge of a beach and a sailing ship heading out to sea. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, Ireland. It is post marked Field Post Office 87 with the date 14 JY 16. There is also a censors stamp, the number is not clear but may be in the 200's. The name G Smyth has been written across the upper right hand corner of the address panel. The message reads:

I recd a letter from you a few days ago, but have been busy so cd. not answer it until now. The weather here at present is beautiful. Hoping that you are well

Gordon.

I got a parcel from John and one from Molly Gabbey

26. An empty envelope addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University Street, Belfast. It is headed On Active Service and is post marked Field Post Office 87, 18 JY 16. There is also a censors stamp, the number is not clear but may be in the 200's. The name G Smyth has been written across the lower left hand corner.

27. 13. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 21 JY 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated 17th July. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon and is dated 21st July.

28. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 87, 24 JY 16. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon and is dated 24th July.

29. A letter, no envelope, to Mrs. Smyth. It is on headed note paper: 2, Carlisle Terrace, Londonderry. Telephone 179. and is "dated" Saturday Night. It reads:

My Dear Mrs. Smyth,

Just a few lines to let you know that I had a very pleasant run to Derry. I did the journey in two hours and fifty minutes.

I found father in good form only very busy. He was down in Portrush on Friday and says mother is getting much better. I am going down on the motor car tomorrow to see mother and will call and see Isobel in Limavady on the way. I have just been trying to speak to Limavady and tell Isobel but the Exchange tell me that Limavady communication is closed after 8 o'clock.

I hear that one of my aunts has knit two head garments, one for me and the other for my dearest and unequaled chum Gordon. I shall let you see it before I send it to him.

Father is very sorry that Gordon and I were not sent together and has greatly cheered me up by telling me that we are almost sure to meet in France. Now as this is the only thing for which I live I trust it will soon come to pass.

I am going to have quite a busy time visiting my relations.

I am preparing a very long and detailed letter for Gordon as I have made up my mind that it is my duty, and always will be, to let him know everything I do and know.

Now rest yourself Mrs Smyth, if you will allow me to give you this advice, and do not overwork yourself. Will see you on Tuesday Evg. Kindest regards to all.

Yours most sincerely,
Eric.

30. A letter, no envelope, to Mrs. Smyth. It is on headed note paper: South Western Hotel, Southampton. It is "dated" Wednesday Evg. It reads:

Dear Mrs Smyth,

Here I am in S'Hampton. We had a good run to Dublin and I met the Mayor of Derry in the train. From Dublin we went straight to Kingstown and left on boat at 8-30 P.M. for Holyhead where we arrived about 12 midnight. Off the boat at H'head we got on to the train at once and arrived in London about 6 A.M. This train was so full that we were lucky to get into even 3rd class carriages. I simply 'dosed' in boat and train as one cd. not possibly sleep. As train did not leave London for S'Hampton until 11-30 P.M. we went to 'Waverley' hotel and had some

breakfast and a bath and then drove round part of London in a taxi. We got to S'Hampton on special train at 2 P.M. and reported at once to Embarkation Officer at the docks and got our kits on board and then strolled up here for lunch. We have leave until 7-30 P.M. tonight. We are crossing on an old boat like Scotch boats which come up to Coleraine but I do not yet know where we land in France. We are naturally tired but otherwise in good form. About 140 officers cross with us and about 200 tommies. I shall write at 1st opportunity from France. Please give Dick and John [e]tc news in this letter. I shall never forget all your kindness to me and I thank you my utmost. All your people are the kindest people I ever met. I shall look out for Gordon. Must now close. Hope all are well.

Kindest regards to all
Yours most sincerely
Eric E Craig.

P.S. Please tell Dick Ulster Division is being filled up with English officers.

Please excuse scrawl - terrible hurry.

Eric.

31. A letter addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111, University Street, Belfast, Ireland. The envelope is headed On Active Service, post marked Army Post Office S 12 and has the censors stamp 1462 or possibly 1402. The name E.E. Craig has been written in the bottom left hand corner. The letter itself is on headed paper which reads, 36th (Ulster) Base Depot, Camp 19, Havre, B.E.F. It is dated Sunday 23rd. July 1916 and reads:

My dear Mrs. Smyth,

I arrived safely out here after a long, tiring journey. The sea journeys Dublin-Holyhead and Southampton to Here were very calm. France is a peculiar place - Havre always smells of coffee for some reason or other. Motors [e]tc drive on the opposite side of the road from home and the tramcars are much smaller and full of rust - paint seems scarce on them. The French young boys come up to you and ask you for a "pinnie" i.e. a penny. Outside Bars and coffee houses in Havre I see there are seats and tables at which people eat and drink. You wd. roar if you saw us trying to make the French people understand us. I should never like to live in France as the people are so mean and dirty. They try to take all the money from one they possibly can. I am well and content under the circumstances. I have seen French, Indian and Colonial troops since I arrived here. We are trained very hard starting at 8 A.M. and working till 4 P.M. I am trying to get to Gordon's Bn. I am applying for a transfer from 10th Bn to which I am going to be posted so as to get to 13 Bn. with dearest Gordon. Above is my address until I get another then I shall let you know. Am sleeping in a Bell tent with 3 N'Ards chaps and am very comfortable - we have one servant pr tent. Beautiful scenery from here - great woods around. Will write soon again. Kindest regards to all.

Yours most sincerely,
Eric.

32. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St, Belfast. Ireland. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field Post Office 87, 26 JY 16 and has a censors stamp number 2192. The name G Smyth has been written in the bottom left hand corner. The

letter is on two sheets of paper that appear from the perforations along the top, to have been torn from some sort of note book. The two pages have the printed numbers 11 and 12 at the bottom. The letter is dated 26th July 1916 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Just a few lines to let you know that I am well and as sprightly as ever. I recd your letter dated the 17th July and also the one dated the 19th. I recd the Gillette and have written Aunt Mina long ago to thank her for it. I also wrote to John and to the Gabbeys.

I had a letter today from Eric, he had arrived in France but was not near me. I believe that he has been attached to the 10th R. Ir Rifles. I may be near him after some time. He probably will be moved here later. I am near a large town and can go in now and then to buy things. I have also recd a letter from Lizzie and have just answered it. It was good of her writing me.

The weather is ideal and it is grand as camping out is not pleasant in wet weather.

I have no more news so must close

Ever your loving son
Gordon

33. A letter, no envelope, to Mrs Smyth. It is on two pages, each headed 36th (Ulster) Base Depot, Camp 19, Havre, B.E.F., and is dated 4th August 1916. It reads:

My dear Mrs. Smyth,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still here. I have very little to write about but will do my best.

I finish my training here at the end of this week I think. I have been through a most interesting and instructive course here including going through gas. I know now exactly what I have to do when I take my platoon in the trenches and I am not a bit afraid of it, in fact I rather like it.

I hear from Gordon occasionally and he seems to be having a fine time; he is looking out for me as he says when I leave here I shall be going to the resting place near which his Bn. is resting. Capt. Burroughs, who was my Capt. at Newtownards, left here yesterday for the 13th; he knows the Colonel of the 13th very well and is going to do his utmost to get me transferred - isn't this good luck? Such chums as Gordon and I cd. not be separated. I expect to leave here for the 10th Bn. next week. All letters arriving here will be sent after me.

I never experienced anything like the heat here - I am quite sunburned so what must Gordon be like? I am very glad to know that John has had his operation over with complete success. Poor John, he is such a decent chap; I wrote him the other day. We had the Irish Guards band playing in front of our mess the other day - it made me feel quite at home.

I have had letters from many people and Dick has not forgotten me. He very kindly sent me cigarettes [e]tc. You and your family have always been extremely kind to me. Before I came away I told you I wd. do my utmost to get to Gordon - I am pleased with the way I am

getting on so far. I am afraid my news is now exhausted so must "wind up". I hope that you are quite well and that John will soon be quite himself again; please tell him I was asking about him and give him and all my kindest regards.

Yours very sincerely,
Eric.

P.S. Before leaving N'Ards I made arrangements for a group photo, in which Gordon is, to be sent to you. Did you receive it? I fancy there is some mistake.

34. A letter, no envelope, to Mrs Smyth. It is on a single page headed 36th (Ulster) Base Depot, Camp 19, Havre, B.E.F., and is dated 6.8.16. It reads:

My Dear Mrs. Smyth,

Please accept this little present from me. I have just received orders to proceed "up the line" to join my battalion today so I am again busy packing my valise. I am quite well and very happy. My address from now on is:-

10th. Bn. Royal Irish Rifles,
B.E.F.
France.

I hope John is getting on well. Kindest regards to all.

Yours very sincerely,
Eric.

[At the bottom of the letter, in different hand writing, is the following post script]

P.S. This was all torn up when it reached ---- [The final word and the initials which follow it are both unclear].

35. A picture post card showing a street scene. At the top is printed: Bailleul (Nord) - Rue de Cassel. This has been crossed out, unsuccessfully, presumably by the censor. It is post marked [Field Post Of]fice 17, 4 or 14 AU 16 and has the censors stamp number 6166. A second post mark reads Belfast AUG 17, 5.30PM, 1916. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, Ireland but this has been crossed out and the forwarding address, c/o Mrs Deighan, Benone, Magilligan, Co. Derry, added. The name G Smyth has been written across the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

Hope that you are having a good holiday and that the weather is good

Gordon

[P.S.] I am having a good time at present.

36. A picture post card showing a portrait of a young woman. Beneath it is printed the name RUBY and the following quotation:

"Heart on her lips, and soul within her eyes,

Soft as her climes, and sunny as her skies." Byron.

On the reverse is printed, Tuck's Post Card, and below it in smaller print, Carte Postal. It is post marked Field Post Office 87, 23 AU 16 and has a censors stamp though the number is unclear. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, Ireland but this has been crossed out and the forwarding address, c/- Mrs Deighan, Benone, Magilligan, Co. Derry, added. The name G Smyth has been written across the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

Just a line to let you know that I am well. I hope that you are having a good holiday. The weather here at present is rather wet.

Love from Gordon.

37. A picture post card showing a group of four children playing and one playing an accordian. It is post marked Field Post Office 87, 19 AU 16 with the censors stamp number 2192. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, Ireland but this has been crossed out and the forwarding address, c/o Mrs Deighan, Benone, Magilligan, Co. Derry, added. The name G Smyth has been written across the top left hand corner. The message reads:

My Dear Mother

Thanks very much for letter which I recd some time ago. I hope that you are having a good holiday. The weather here is a bit showery

Love from Gordon

[There is a post script in the same hand writing used to add the forwarding address. It reads:]

We got a photo from Eric for you but didn't send it on. M.S.

38. A letter addressed to Mrs. Smyth, c/o Mrs. L. Thompson, Catherine Street, Limavady, Co. Derry, Ireland. It is headed On Active Service, is post marked, Field Post Office 86, 27 AU 16, and has the censors stamp number 2188. The name E.E. Craig is written in the bottom left hand corner. The letter consists of two pages of squared paper which appear, from the perforated upper edge, to have been torn from a note book. It is headed, 10th. Bn. B.E.F. 26th August 1916. It reads:

My dear Mrs. Smyth,

Some welcome news for you. I saw Gordon here on the 22nd and 23rd; we made arrangements to meet and they were successful. Gordon is looking splendidly and feels quite well, he is just the same - the best chum I ever cd. meet. I was with him for 6 hrs each of above evenings and he dined with me and I with him. I hope to see him again within the next 10 days. We are busy at present. I remember well you once asking me if I cd say why Gordon, in his reply to your letters, did not allude very much to what you said in your letters; well I put this question to Gordon and he says it is because he might let slip news which wd get him in trouble. Gordon and I are only about 5 miles apart. We naturally had a great

meeting and discussed Everybody and Everything. The Adjutant here (a gentleman) has informed me that my application for transfer has been "sent on", by this I take it to mean it has been approved of by my Colonel and sent on for approval to Divisional Headquarters; I have therefore [abbreviation] good grounds for hoping to get the transfer. Did Nelson send you my photograph? He sent me one and I gave it to Gordon. I shd. know about the transfer within the next fortnight.

I often wonder how poor John is as I have not heard about him for some time now. I have written to him. I feel sure he is getting on well. The weather here is somewhat showery. I have seen Ivan McCaw and several of the Newtownards chaps - they all look well. I am sure you, Isobel [e]tc are having a splendid holiday as Magilligan is such a free and easy place and plenty of fresh air. Gordon and I are quite well and happy now that we are near and hope soon to be together in the 13th. Bn. I am afraid I have no more news at present so must close hoping you are well. Kindest regards to Isobel and Lawrence. Madge wrote me but I cannot answer as I dont know her Dublin address.

Yours very sincerely,
Eric.

39. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, Ireland. It is post marked, Field Post Office 87, 30 AU 16 and has a censors stamp, number 2192. The name G Smyth is written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter, on a single sheet of plain paper, is dated 29th August 1916 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I am writing you a short letter to wish you many happy returns of your birthday. You have always been a good and kind mother to us all and I hope that you have many happy years yet before you. I am writing this now so that it may arrive in good time but I am sorry to say that I can't send you a present just now, but will do so in the course of a few days.

I thank you very much for the lovely cake that you got Madge to bake. I enjoyed it very much and the chocolate was first rate. Tell Dick that I will write him soon.

I hope that you are feeling well after your hopliday. See and take care of yourself. Wasnt it terrible about May's fiance? I hope that she will bear up and not worry too much I have no more news

So must close
With much love
from Gordon

40. A picture post card showing two dogs sitting on the edge of a pillow. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, is post marked Field Post Office 87, SP 4 16, and has the censors stamp number 2192. The name G Smyth has been written across the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother,

Just a line to let you know that I am well. Hope that you are the same. The weather here is

wet.

Love from Gordon

41. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, Ireland. It is headed On Active Service, post marked Field Post Office 87, SP 8 16 with a censors stamp though the number is not clear. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 5th Sept 1916 and reads:

My Dear Mother,

I have not had a letter from you for some time so I hope that you are A.1. and in good form. I had a parcel from Lizzie and one from Mina Wasn't it very good of them. I enjoyed them very much.

The weather here at present is very bad. It rains most of the time and it is altogether miserable. Anyhow we are looking forward to better weather in the near future

When I was at the Lewis gun school I ran up against M'Clinton and Stewart of North. I had a grand time at the school. We were 1/2 an hour's walk of a large town and I was able to go in nearly every day. I bought quite a number of things. I hope to see Eric tomorrow again. He and I are both working hard for his transfer. If it can't be managed I have a great notion of the artillery. I see that they are looking for officers at present. The artillery is a good job out here.

The king was out here some time ago and I forgot to tell you that he was quite close to where I am. In fact some of our fellows saw him

Enclosed is for your birthday.

Have no more news

So must close

With much love
from Gordon

[At the top of the letter has been written] I hope to see Eric tomorrow.

42. A letter, no envelope, to Mrs Smyth. It is written on black rimmed paper, stamped 2, Carlisle Terrace, Londonderry, and is dated 9.9.16. The letter reads:

Dear Mrs Smyth

Isn't it sad about poor Eric, he didn't have long poor boy. He was very fond of you and your family, he was always talking to me about you all and telling me how kind you were to him. Poor Gordon will be in a terrible state they were so extremely fond of each other.

Eric was such a good brother and greatly devoted to his Father and Mother, as long as they were well Eric was happy. However it is God's will and he has gone but a short time before to a world of love and happiness and he has died a noble death, so we must endeavour to lead

a more righteous life so that when our time comes we may be prepared to meet him in Heaven. I was speaking to a Lient. one day last week he told me he was speaking to Eric just an hour before he was killed, he said Eric was the most popular officer in his battalion.

Have you heard from Gordon lately? I sincerely hope he is well, I am writing him today. Next time I am in Belfast I will call and see you, and tell Willie next time he is in Derry he is to come and stay with us and no other place, as it was Eric's wish that Willie should always stay here. How is John? I hope he is making a speedy recovery

Father has just opened a letter which Eric left with him the day he left for France which he was to open if anything should happen him, in it he says. If my Chum Gordon should survive me always treat him in the best possible manner because he is the best chap I ever met. Must conclude hoping you are all well

Yours very sincerely
M.N. Craig.

43. A letter, no envelope, to Mrs Smyth. It is written on black rimmed paper headed 2 Carlisle Tr, Lderry. 12.9.16. It reads:

Dear Mrs Smyth

Many thanks for your kind and comforting letter - I return Gordons.

Mrs Craig had a note from Gordon today - Dated 5th inst- He apparently did not then know of Eric's Death. Poor Gordon will feel it keenly.

We are all reconciled and happy in the knowledge that my son is in Heaven. We can go to him when our work here is finished. Tell your sons I will let them have photos later on. I hope to order some soon.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely
Jas Craig

44. A letter, no envelope, to "My Dear Mother". It is on four sheets of paper that appear from the perforations at the top of each page, to have been torn from a note book. The pages are numbered 25, 26, 27 and 61. The letter is dated Tuesday. Sept 12th. It reads:

My dear Mother

I am sure that the death of Eric came as a great blow to you all. I know that I was absolutely stunned when I heard of it. It happened on the afternoon of the 28th August. He was killed by a trench mortar which lit right into the trench. I believe that he was hardly cut at all but died instantaneously owing to the shock of the explosion.

It is a great blow to us all but we must bear up and try to be cheerful. He was buried in a military cemetery behind the line and as soon as I get the opportunity I will go and see his grave

I am at present at a general course at the Divisional Schools. We are about 20-30 miles from the line, and so I cant get to see his grave until I return. I will be here until about 28th.

I am very comfortable here; have a good billet and get plenty to eat. I am billeted in a French house have a large room with bed, blankets, wardrobe to myself. About 6 officers mess together and for breakfast we have Tea bacon and 2 eggs. For lunch we have meat potatoes and vegetables, pudding, fruit and tea. For dinner we have soup and the same as for lunch. As well we have afternoon tea. I rise at 7.30 am and the French people in the house always give me coffee. We have breakfast at 8 a.m. parade from 8.45 - 12.30 and have lunch at 1 p.m. We then parade 2-4.30 and then have afternoon tea. There is a lecture at 6 and we have dinner at 7.30. I go to bed usually at 9.30.

So you see that I am having a grand time. The French people are very decent to me and give me pears often. We are about 6 miles from a very large town so I hope to get there some of these days. I will then be able to buy things. Tell John that I have enough cigarettes at present Ivan McCaw is at this school with me. I ran across Andy Patterson of Dundrum the other day. He is an officer in the "Skins". All the money left over is for you, so dont kick up any row.

I saw an officer the other day who was in Erics Coy I got the details from him. He also said that all Erics kit had been sent home.

Mother dont worry too much about Eric. It is hard to think that he will never return again but he is now free from all trouble and is now in His Fathers keeping.

I hope that you are well and not working too hard. I am in good health and form

With much love
from Gordon

Excuse scribble as mail is going

45. A picture post card showing a rather "mean" looking German soldier smoking a cigar. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, is post marked [Field Po]st Office 101, 2 OC 16 and has a censors stamp the number beginning 21, possibly 219. The name G Smyth has been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

Am well and in good form. Hope that Mina is improving and that you are well

Gordon

46. A picture post card showing a rather young looking French soldier. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, is post marked Field Post Office 101, 7 OC 16 and has a censors stamp though the number is not clear. The name G Smyth has been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

Recd your letter dated 2nd Oct. Will write a letter later. Hope you are having a good rest.

Love from
Gordon

[P.S.] Hope Mina is a lot better

GS

47. A letter addressed to Mrs M.F.D. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales. The envelope is headed On Active Service and has the name G Smyth written across the bottom left hand corner. It is post marked Field Post Office 101, 12 OC 16 and has a censors stamp the number of which appears to be 2192. The letter is undated but is headed Wednesday. It reads:

My Dear Mother

I hope that you are well and in good form. I am A.1. at present I got some cigarettes the other day and didnt know who sent them. I have just found out that it was you. Thank you very much dear for them. It was very good of you to send me so many, I am enjoying them very much.

I hope that you are enjoying your holiday and that the weather is good. The weather out here is moderately fine. The only thing is that it gets a little chilly in the evenings. See and take care of yourself during your holiday so that when you return to Belfast you will feel benifited.

I am in a hut at present and have a bed made out of wire netting stretched between two sticks. It is very comfortable and as one of the chaps has a gramophone we have a good time. The grub is good. Meat and potatoes, sweets and tea for lunch. Soup, meat and potatoes sweets and coffee for dinner. Bacon 2 eggs tea porridge and bread for breakfast. As well we have afternoon tea at 4.30 pm. I had a parcel from May Cooke and also one from Madge. I enjoyed them very much. I got this photo taken in a French village. It is terrible. I send you a cheque of 2£ for yourself and also cards. The address is Miss G. Buchan 2 Alexandra Terrace Cork.

I have no more news so must close with much love to you all.

Ever yr loving son
Gordon

[P.S.] Hope Mina is heaps better One photo is for Mina

[Written on the back of the envelope in Gs's handwriting is] Recd Letter No 1 today. Will tell in next letter about parcel. Had to cut these down to get into envelope

48. A picture post card showing a Scottish soldier with rifle and bayonet fixed, confronting a German. Beneath this cartoon is the caption, "Stop Yer Ticklin', Jock!!" "Aimes-tu les chatouilles?". It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales, is post marked Field Post Office 101, 20 OC 16 and has a censors stamp numbered 2192. The name G Smyth has been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

Hope you are well. Will write letter later when have more time

Love from Gordon

49. A picture post card showing a startled sailor facing a middle aged woman. Beneath this cartoon is the caption, "Young man, where's your armlet? Jeune homme, voulez-vous une marraine?". It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St, Belfast, but has been forwarded to Woodleigh, Welshpool, N Wales. It is post marked Field Post Office 101, 22 OC 16 and has a censors stamp which may have the number 2192. The name G Smyth has been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

Hope you are feeling better after your holiday [] The weather is a trifle wet.

Love from
Gordon.

50. A picture post card showing rather weather hardened French sailor? Beneath this is written, "Dans les Flandre Nov 1914". It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales, is post marked Field Post Office 101, 21 OC 16 and has a censors stamp numbered 2192. The name G Smyth has been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

I am well and in good form Hope you are enjoying your holiday

Gordon

51. A picture post card showing a young boy in civilian clothes and a German army helmet. Above this cartoon is the caption, "Poor Bochy!". Beneath, "They say we are done". It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St, Belfast, Ireland, is post marked Field Post Office 101, 27 OC 16 and has a censors stamp numbered 2192. The name G Smyth has been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

My Dear Mother

Thanks for letter No 2 recd two days ago. The weather here at present is very wet am at present in billets

Gordon

52. A picture post card showing a black cat with a brick, labelled "war", tied to its neck. Beneath this cartoon is the caption, "I'll be d----- if I can see anything to smile at, but I'll try!". Above it is, "Je ne vois rien qui puisse me faire sourire, mais je vais essayer cependant!" It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, is post marked Field Post Office 101, 29 OC 16 and has a censors stamp numbered 2192. The name G Smyth has

been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

Hope you are well. Have no time at present to write letter Recd Letter no 3.

Gordon

53. A picture post card showing a fat businessman marching along with his umbrella over his shoulder like a rifle. To his left a rather scruffily dressed character 'presents arms' with a brush. Beneath this cartoon is the caption, "Everybody's doing it. Il faut bien faire comme tout le monde!". It is addressed to J. A. Smyth Esq BSc, 111 University St, Belfast, is post marked Field Post Office, 29 OC 16 and has a censors stamp numbered 2192. The name G Smyth has been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear John

Recd letter and parcel all right. Thanks very much for [] The cardigan is the business and the cake was lovely. If I were you I wd wait to Xmas before []ing arm bones. You will forget []

Love from Gordon

54. A picture post card showing a dog with pups sitting beside an empty plate and bare bone. Below this cartoon is the caption, "It takes something to keep a family these days! C'est difficile d'entretenir une famille aujourd'hui!". It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St, Belfast, is post marked Field Post Office 101, 3 NO 16 and has a censors stamp numbered 2192. The name G Smyth has been written in the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

I will write a letter in a few days. By the time you get this I will be out for a rest. Hope you are well

Love from Gordon

55. A picture post card showing a section of railway running along the coast. At the bottom is printed, "Folkestone. The Warren, Showing Halt". It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast and is post marked Folkestone, 2.30PM, 8 DEC 1916. The communication is headed "Friday" and reads

Dear Mother

Arrived safely at Folkestone and cross today. Hope you are well

Gordon

56. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The envelope is headed On Active Service and is post marked Field Post Office 101. There is a censors stamp number 1104 and the name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is

dated Sat 16th Dec. It reads:

My Dear Mother,

I arrived with my battn last Sat morning after a fairly good journey. The boat was 7 hours late in getting into Liverpool owing to the fog. I arrived with Mina on Wed. evening at 6.30 and stayed overnight. I caught the 1st train on Thursday morning to London arriving at about 2-o'clock. The train for Folkestone left London at 7.50 on Friday morning and I arrived next morning with my battn.

The weather here at present is rotten and the rain at times is heavy. We had snow for 2 or 3 days last week but it did not lie.

I am at present acting Lewis Gun Officer. The Lewis G. Officer went on leave before me and as he took sick is not back yet.

The ham is in good condn and Madge's cake is going high. I have the ham well packed away.

Have no more news so must close

With love to all
from
Gordon

[P.S.] Am quite well again Hope May Cooke is all right again GS. Hope that you will all have a merry Christmas.

57. A Christmas menu typed in blue ink and laid out as below. All items in italics have been hand written.

[Side 1]

13th ROYAL IRISH RIFLES

"C"
COMPANY.

MENU.

In the Field
Christmas 1916.

[Side 1 has also been signed by the following:]

Gordon D.L. Smyth.

Robert Kelso, Boardmills, Lisburn.

James Dorward, 23 Stranmillis Gdns., Belfast.
F.J. Gwynn Ellison, The Rectory, Fethard-on-Sea, Waterford.
John Donnelly, Ballintoy, Belfast.
W.H. Gransden, St. Columb's Court, L'Derry.
M.W. Shaw, 13 Chlorine Gds., Belfast.
D. Gray, RIR. c/o Cox and Co.

[Side 2]

MENU.

1. Soup (Tomato)
2. Fish.
3. Turkey and Ham.
4. Plum-Pudding. (Brandy Sauce)
5. Fruit.
6. Savory.
7. Biscuits and Cheese.
8. Cafe au Lait.
9. Fruits.(Grapes,
Apples,
Oranges)

[Side 3]

TOASTS.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The King. | M.P. (<i>G.D.L.S</i>) |
| 2. Our Allies. | F.J.G.E. |
| 3. C.O. and Bttn. Offrs. | D.G. |
| 4. Home Folk. | J.Dy. |
| 5. Guests. | J.Dor. |
| 6. Ulster Division. | W.H.G. |

Ulster's Watchword:-

NO SURRENDER.

G O D S A V E T H E K I N G .

[SIDE 4]

"C" Co. OFFICERS.

Capt. H. Hardy.
Lieut. D. Gray.
2/Lieut. J. Donnelly.
" G. Rae Sims.
" W.H. Gransden.
" J. Dorward.

- " G.D.L. Smyth. (*Mess President*)
- " F.J.G. Ellison.
- " M. Shaw.

58. A 36th Division Christmas card. On the outside is a Red Hand of Ulster on a shield. Below it is printed:

36TH
ULSTER DIVISION
BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
1916

With Best Wishes for
A Happy Christmas
from

Gordon

[The signature, in italics, is that of Gordon Smyth. On the inside of the card are two caricatures of a British soldier. One for 1914 showing a smiling Tommy carrying a rifle slung on his sholder. The second, for 1916, shows the soldier weighed down with a variety of equipment, his face hidden by a gas respirator].

59. An empty envelope addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University Street, Belfast and headed On Active Service. The post mark, which is not clear, is from Fiel[d Post Office] 75. The date is incomplete, the month may contain an A, the year is 17. The censors stamp is 1104. The hand writing is that of Gordon Smyth.

60. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 96, 13 FE 17. There is a second post mark for Belfast, 1.30 PM, 16 FE 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast, but has been forwarded to Woodleigh, Welshpool, North Wales. The message reads:

I am quite well.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 13/2/17.

61. A letter addressed to Mrs M.F.D. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales and headed On Active Service. The post mark is [Field Post] Office 16 FE 17 and the censors stamp is number 1104. G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner of the envelope. The letter is dated February 15th 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Thanks awfully for the drawers and sweets which I received a few days ago. Thank Mina very much for her share. It was very good of you to send me the drawers, but you mightn't have troubled as I have been wearing wollens this last 6 weeks. In fact I can get woollens very cheap through ordnance. There must be great fun at home skating. I wish I were there. I had a parcel from home and one from May and Lizzie. So I have been lucky.

The thaw has now set in, and it is quite warm in the day time It gets very chilly at night.

How is Mina and Heg. I hope that they are both well and flourishing. I have got absolutely no news, so must close with love to all

from your loving son
Gordon.

[On the reverse of the envelope is written] Surprised to hear about Willie and Mollie

62. A Field Service Post Card post marked F[ield Pos]t Office 96, 21 FE 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated --. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 21/2/17.

63. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 96, 24 FE 17. There is a second post mark for Belfast, 19.15 PM, 27 FE 17. It is addressed to Mr. J.A. Smyth BSc, 111 University St., Belfast, but has been forwarded to Woodleigh, Welshpool, N. Wales. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 24/2/17.

64. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 96, 24 FE 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, North Wales. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 24/2/17.

65. A Field Service Post Card post marked Fie[ld Post Office] 96, 26 FE 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 26/2/17.

66. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 96, 1 MR 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales. The message reads:

I am quite well.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 28/2/17.

67. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field [Post] Office 96, 5 MR 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated --. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 3/3/17.

68. An empty envelope addressed to Mrs Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales and headed On Active Service. It is post marked Field Post Office 96, 7 MR 17. The censors stamp is 1104. G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner.

69. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field [Post Office] 96, 9 MR 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 8/3/17.

70. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field [Post] Office 96, 11 MR 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 9/3/17.

71. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field [Post] Office 96, 11 MR 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 10/3/17.

72. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales with the envelope headed On Active Service. It is post marked Field Post Office 96, 16 MR 17 and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 15th March 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Thanks awfully for letter and good wishes. Thanks also for your share in the parcel. It was very good of you to send me a parcel.

I had a lot of presents this year. A pair of gold cuff links with initials and crest on them from the Gabbey's, also 2 parcels. A parcel from John, Madge and Lizzie. A parcel from Willie and Molly and also an amber mouthpiece.

So you see that I have been very lucky. The Gabbey's are wonderfully kind, aren't they?

I am quite well and am at present out on rest 12 miles behind the line. I expect to be out for some time

Have no more news

So will close
with love
from
Gordon.

[On the reverse of the envelope he has written] Isn't it grand about John

73. A picture post card showing a group of people, mainly children, standing outside a school or public building displaying several French flags. At the bottom the name has been crossed out, presumably by the censor, but appears to read, Ba[ill]eul (Nord) C---te Saint Joseph. It is addressed to Mrs Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool and is post marked Field Post Office [], 21 MR 17. There is a censor's stamp, number 1104 and the name G Smyth has been written across the top left hand corner. The message reads:

Dear Mother

Just a card to say that I am well. I hope that you are well. Am on rest still.

Gordon.

74. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales with the envelope headed On Active Service. It is post marked Field Post Office 96, 26 MR 17 and has a censor's stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 25th March 17 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Thanks very much for your letter of the 20th March. Thanks also for the enclosures.

Am still out on rest and expect to be for a considerable time yet. The weather is fine but a bit cold, and my rheumatism has entirely gone. I always feel it just after coming out of the trenches.

The birthday dinner went off well. We had the Padre up for dinner. The whole thing was over at about 11 o'clock.

I was out at church today and Dr Parke of Rosemary St was preaching. He was speaking to us afterwards, and took some of our names. He is going to see our ministers at home, and tell them that we are well. So I suppose that he will see Mr Colquhoun.

Clarke M'Ilroy was not long out until he got wounded. I was sorry to hear that your skin was not keeping well. See and take care of your self and give it a chance to get well.

Enclosed is for you. You can buy yourself something with it. What about Willie's and Mollie's present. I suppose that we are all clubbing together. Tell me what my share is, and I will send it.

I will write to Aunt Mina in a day or two.

Have no more news so will close

With love
from
Gordon.

75. A letter, no envelope, to Aunt Mina and dated 28th March 1917. It reads:

My Dear Aunt Mina

I am just writing a few lines to tell you how sorry I was to hear that Uncle Robert was suffering so much from his finger. I hope that by this time he is much better, and able to go about again.

How are you keeping yourself? I hope that your rheumatism is not troubling you. It is very cold here at present, but it is dry, and I suppose that we can't very well grumble.

I am out on rest at present, about seven miles behind the front line, and I expect to be out for some time. We have been marching about, so have not had much time for anything. Thus we have to make few letters do and I am sure that the people at home understand how we are situated.

The leave is now closed, and I don't know whether I will get home again until the Autumn. In fact I wouldn't be a bit surprised if I didn't.

I have no news so I will close

With love
from
Your Affectionate Nephew
Gordon.

76. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 96, 1 AP 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Woodleigh, Welshpool, Wales but has been forwarded to 111 University Street, Belfast, Ireland and there is a second post mark, Welshpool, 8 PM, 5 or 6 AP 17. The message reads:

I am quite well. I am being sent down to the base. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 31/3/17.

77. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 96, 3 AP 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated ? Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 2/4/17.

78. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast with the envelope headed On Active Service. It is post marked Field Post Office 96, 8 AP 17 and has a censor's stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The

letter is dated 7th April 17 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Just a line to let you know that I am well and still on rest. I recd your letter safely and sent £ 4. (3 for Willie's present and one for yourself)

Did john get the registered parcel which I sent to him. He has never acknowledged it yet.

I suppose that by the time that you get this Willie will be married and on his honeymoon

The weather is good and quite Springlike. Am very busy.

Love to all
from Gordon.

79. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field Post Office 96, 12 AP 17 and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 11th April 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I am taking this opportunity of writing to you a short letter, just to let you know that I am well and still out resting.

By this time Willie and May will be married and on their honeymoon. I hope that they are having better weather than we are having here. On Monday it was bitterly cold all day, and we had a lot of sleet. On Tuesday we had a lot of hail and snow, and it froze hard at night. Today it is desperately cold and the snow came on this afternoon and it has been snowing very heavily ever since. At present there is a fairly good layer of snow on the ground.

Tell John that I will write him a long letter in a day or two. I am ashamed of myself for not writing sooner to him, but the truth of the matter is that I have been busy this last week or two.

Have no news so will close

With love
from Gordon

[P.S.] Had a parcel from Molly Gabbey the other day

Dont worry about me as I have got a very good bed in a French House. I have sheets and blankets

Gordon

80. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office D.[], 23 [] 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated 18th. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 22nd April 1917.

81. A letter, no envelope, to Mother. It is dated 5th May 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Just a line or two to tell you that I am well and still enjoying rest. I am at present under canvas, and the weather is beautiful and it is just like summer time.

I have been very busy with parades [e]tc, both in the morning and in the afternoon and have not had a great amount of time to myself. I will be able to snatch some time tomorrow for writing letters and I will write you a long letter then

Hope you are well

With love
from
Gordon.

82. A letter, no envelope, to Mother. It is dated 16th May 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Just a few lines to let you know that I am quite well and in good form. I am still out on rest and expect to be for some time yet.

I hope that you are well and that you are having a good stay at Limavady. I had a letter from you a few days ago, and was glad to hear that you were feeling well, I am sure that the change at Limavady will do you good. How is Isobel keeping? I hope well.

The weather here at present is pretty good. Up to this last day or two it has been desperately warm, but it has turned a little cooler now and we are able to run about more than we did

I saw Artie Wheeler the other day; he is looking very well, and seems to be in good form

Will write again in a few days

With love to yourself Isobel, Lawrence and Francis from
Gordon.

83. A letter, no envelope, to Mother. It is dated 29th May 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I have received your letter today, and also the enclosed letter from Auntie Mina, thanks very much for them. I was glad to hear that Isobel and the baby were still doing well. I hope that Isobel will soon be up to the mark again.

Was also pleased to hear that Willie was looking so well. He was a bit thin the last time I saw him. I was sorry to hear about May. She must have been working too hard or I am sure that she would not have laid herself up. I hope that the change at Welshpool will do her a lot of good.

I cant give you any news as to what my where-about's are, but I am well off, and in the best of form. The weather is lovely and I am quite near a large town so can pay it frequent visits.

How are you feeling? I hope that you are well and enjoying your stay in Limavady. How is Isobel's garden getting along? I suppose that by this time she has a lot of flowers in it. The hawthorn is now out in blossom and the pear and apple trees have already blossomed. Everything looks so nice. I have seen a few bird's-nests, especially sparrows. Nearly every tree you see has 2 or 3 in it.

I will now close
With love to all
from
Gordon.

84. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, c/o B.L. Thompson Esq., Catherine St., Limavady and subsequently forwarded to 111 University St., Belfast. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field Post Office 97, 3 JU 17 and Limavady, Co. Londonderry, 1.45 PM, 6 JU 17. It has a censor's stamp number 1104 and the name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 2nd June 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Just a short note to let you know that I am well and in good form. I am afraid that you will have difficulty reading this as the pencil is a very bad one

The weather is lovely here and we are having a good time. Hope that you are having a good rest in Limavady

Will write again soon
Love
from
Gordon

85. A letter addressed to Mrs M.F.D. Smyth, c/o B.L. Thompson, Catherine Street, Limavady. The envelope is headed On His Majesty's Service though this has been crossed out with a pencil. The post mark is Field Post Office []7, 4 JU 17 and there is a censor's stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 4th June 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I am just taking a few minutes before lunch to let you know that I am still well and having a good time

The weather is still lovely and this afternoon the heat is terrific, and it is very hard to stick

any walking or exercise of any sort.

Are you still in Limavady? As soon as you go to Belfast, let me know as I will know where to address letters to

I had Q C.B from John and also a long letter. He seems to have done fairly well in his exam. I hope that the results will be good

Have no news
So will close
With love from
Gordon.

86. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field Post Office 96, 6 JU 17 and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 6th June 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I suppose that by this time you have returned home again, and that things are much as usual. I am sure that the boys at home were delighted to see you again, as I am sure that they were very lonely when you were away.

The weather here is terribly warm and it is very hard to endure the heat. It gets nice and cool in the evening.

I hope that you are taking care of yourself and not working too hard. See and get as much of the sun as you can, and take as much advantage as you can of the fine weather

Have no news

So will close
with love
from
Gordon.

87. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field Post Office 96, 11 JU 17 and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 10th June 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I hope that you received my field post cards which I sent regularly every day. I am well and feeling in the best of form. The weather is lovely it is very pleasant to walk about, as everything is so nice.

I suppose that you are now settled down again, and that there is nothing startling to relate. I hope that your visit to Limavady did you a lot of good. I am sure that you enjoyed being with

Isobel.

Tell John that I will write to him some of these days. I have read some of Q C.B and think what I have seen of it, fairly good.

I have absolutely no news. Everything is the same and there seems to be nothing to tell you about.

Hope that you will be able to read this as it is written on my knee

With love
from
Gordon.

88. A Field Service Post Card post marked Field Post Office 96, 11 JU 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 11nd June 1917.

89. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field Post [Office] 96, 15 JU 17 and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 15th June 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I have now a few minutes to spare, so am taking this opportunity of writing a few lines.

I am out on rest at present about 8 or 9 miles back, and am having a very pleasant time. The weather is beautiful, and I am taking full advantage of it.

What do you think of the latest push? I think that it is the finest piece of work that has been done yet. The preparations were colossal, and the staff-work was extremely good.

I suppose that you are now quite settled down again in 111. I am sure that the boys will all be pleased to see you again. How did John do in his exam? I suppose that by this time he has heard the result.

When does he go away on the farming stunt? Am going to an old Instonian's dinner tomorrow night. Billy Tyrrell is getting it up.

Have no news so will close

With love
from
Gordon.

90. A Field Service Post Card post marked [Field Post Office] 75, 19 JU 17. It is addressed to

Mrs. Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The message reads:

I am quite well. Letter follows at first opportunity.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 17/6/17.

91. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field Post Office 75, 21 JU 17 and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 20th June 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I think that I owe you a letter now, so as I have a few minutes to spare I am going to "give you the pleasure" of receiving a short note from me.

I received a letter from you three or four days ago. Thanks very much for it. You seem to have had a busy time during Assembly Week. I suppose that Mr M'Fetridge is just the same case.

What sort of weather are you having at home? I hope that it is better than what we are having. There has been thunder and lightening here, and we have had some very heavy rain. I suppose that we cant grouse as we have had such a lot of beautiful weather.

I am out on rest and having not to bad a time, but am kept busy all the time.

Have no more news so will close

With love
from
Gordon.

[P.S.] Hope James Craig will get through
Has John heard anything about his exam? (1)
When does he go farming? (2)
When do you go for your holidays? (3).

92. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University St., Belfast. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field Post Office 75, 24 JU 17 and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 22th June 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still well and enjoying life as per usual. Hope that you are not working too hard, and that you are taking full advantage of the good weather. The weather has been changeable for some time, but I think that it has now quite settled again. I hope so anyway.

I am out on rest, and am again settled down, although I have been doing a bit of moving

about.

How are all the folks at home? I suppose that John is now on holidays. Has he heard the result of his examination yet? I hope that he has done well.

When do you go on your holidays? I hope that the weather will be fine.

I have no news, so will close

With love
to all
from Gordon.

93. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, 111 University Street, Belfast. The envelope is headed [On Active] Service, is post marked Field [Post Office] 75, 12 JY 17 and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 10th July 1917 and reads:

Arrived in France today after a rotten journey. I seemed to miss all my connections, and had to stop the night in Dublin, and also the following night in London.

Hope that you are feeling much better, and that you are not working and running about the house as you did when I was on my leave.

The weather here is very good, and it is much warmer than it was in Ireland.

I saw Lizzie alright in Dublin she didnt cross until the following night. I crossed in the morning.

Will write in a few days time

With love
from
Gordon.

94. A letter, no envelope, to Mother dated 30th July 1917. It reads:

My Dear Mother

I have a few minutes to spare so am taking the opportunity to write you a few lines.

I hope that you are well and are not running about the house too much, otherwise you will lay yourself up again. When are you going to Portstewart? When you get there see and take as much advantage, of the open air, as you can. It ought to do you a lot of good, that is if you make good use of your opportunity.

I am still out on rest about 20 - 25 miles back, and am having a fairly good time. We are in tents The padre, Gransden, and myself share one, and we are very comfortable. The training has now slackened off a bit, and we have nothing to complain of. We expect to be back for a long time, so you neednt worry about me.

The C.O. wrote asking for Cush. He hasn't arrived yet, but he ought to get to this Battalion, all right.

Have no news

So will close
With love from
Gordon.

P.S. I recd your letter of 21st, thanks very much for it. Glad you enjoyed your stay in Bangor. The Gabbey's are very kind. Is Willie all right again? Sorry to hear that Lizzie was so ill GS.

95. A letter, no envelope, to Mother dated 1st August 1917. It reads:

My Dear Mother

Just a few lines to let you know that I am well and in the best of form. Hope that you are keeping well and that you are not running about working too much.

I am still out on rest, and we are under canvas and the only draw-back is that the weather is very wet. Sometimes when the tent gets very wet, after a day's rain, it begins to come through on top of us. But of course that is only after very heavy rain.

Have you gone to Portstewart yet? If you have, I hope that you are having better weather than we are, otherwise you will be kept indoors most of the time.

What is John doing now? I hope that he will make the best of his holiday, so that he will be in good form again to commence work in the Autumn.

I had a long letter from John the other evening about Cush. I got the C.O. to write next morning to the base. He has just received a letter to say that Cush had been sent to the 11th R. Ir. Rif. before his letter arrived. I haven't seen Cush yet, but expect to, soon.

I am sure that he will be quite content in the 11th. They are, as far as I know, a very decent lot, and are in our brigade.

Have no more news so will close

With love
from
Gordon.

96. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, Craigowan, Main Street, Portstewart. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked Field [Post Office] [], 4 AU 17 and has a censor's stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 4th August 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

I received your welcome letter today; thanks very much for it. I hadn't heard from you for

some time, and I was beginning to wonder if anything was wrong.

I hope that you are now quite settled down, and that you are having a good time. The weather here has been desperate, but now it looks as if there was going to be a change for the better. I hope it improves as everything is in an awful state, and it is hard to keep oneself warm and dry. I have plenty of breeches tunics [e]tc, and so by changing regularly I can usually manage to keep dry. We are still out resting and hope that we will be for some time as things must be terrible in the front line trenches nowadays.

I hope that you are still keeping well, and that your stay in Portstewart will do you a lot of good.

I will write again in a few days time

With best love
from Gordon.

97. A letter, no envelope, to Mother dated 9th August 1917. It reads:

My Dear Mother

It is now 2 pm, and I have got half an hour before parade, so I am taking the opportunity of getting a little note scribbled out, to you.

I wrote to you the day before yesterday, and sent you a Field Post card yesterday, and hope that you received them all safely.

I was out doing some work yesterday afternoon, and I saw some of the 11th. I asked about Cush and found out where he was. I went over and saw him. He was surprised to see me and I had a long chat with him. He is looking well and seemed to be in great form.

The weather here is lovely today, but yesterday evening we had very heavy rain and quite a lot of thunder and lightening

Hope that you are having a good time and that the weather is keeping fine. I suppose that you will soon be going back to Belfast again. When you get back, see and dont work or run about the house, otherwise you will counteract all the good that your holiday has done you.

Have no news, so will close

With love
from
Gordon.

98. A Field Service Post Card post marked [Field Post Offi]ce 75, [] AU 17. It is addressed to Mrs. Smyth, Craig Gowan, Main St., Portstewart. The message reads:

I am quite well. I have received your letter dated 6th Aug.

It is signed Gordon D. L. Smyth and is dated 11/8/17.

99. A letter addressed to Mrs Smyth, Craigowan, Main Street, Portstewart. The envelope is headed On Active Service, is post marked [Field] Post Office [], [] AU [] and has a censors stamp number 1104. The name G Smyth has been written across the bottom left hand corner. The letter is dated 11th August 1917 and reads:

My Dear Mother

Received your welcome letter. I was glad to get it, and to know that you were well and having a good time in Portstewart. I can't understand how it is that you hadn't heard from me for 8 days. I wrote every day to you except two days and the only thing that can be wrong is the postal system.

I am still resting and the weather has improved. In fact it is quite fine now, and we have quite a lot of sun. There seems to be a great crowd in Portstewart now. Are there as many Scotch people as formerly?

It was very nice for you to meet so many people that you knew. How long is Isobel staying in Portstewart, and when does Madge start her work? I was delighted to hear that she had got through her examinations all right.

I was in a town near here yesterday and saw Tom Buchanan. He is looking well and seems to be having quite a good time. I also saw Cush Jackson. He too is in good form.

I am in a dreadful hurry to catch post so I will close hoping, that you will excuse the scribble

With love to all
from
Gordon.

100. A single sheet of paper with recipies for Jam Sandwich, Johnny Cake, Apple Jam and Apple Fool.

Jam Sandwich

Weight of egg in flour and sugar. Break egg into basin with tablespoonful milk add flour and sugar Last just before putting into oven add 1/2 teaspoonful baking powder and some flavouring Have a flat tin well buttered, pour in mixture and bake till ready in quick oven. Mix two separate cakes of this recipe. When cold spread jam between them.

Johnny Cake

2 bcups flour, 1 teacup sugar, 2 teaspoons bakingpd, 1 egg, 2 ozs butter, 1 tea cupfull any sort of fruit such as currante-peel or preserved ginger and 1 cup of milk. - Put flour, sugar and b. powder in basin, mix well, rub in butter, add fruit then well beaten egg and milk. Pour into well greased tin and bake one hour.

Apple Jam

To every lb of fruit weighed after being pared cored, and sliced allow 3/4 lb sugar the grated rind of a lemon and juice of 1/2 a lemon. - Peel core and slice thin the apples, put into a jar and stand them in a saucepan of boiling water until they are tender. Then put them into a preserving pan add the sugar, grated rind and lemon juice after coming well to the boil, let all simmer for 1/2 an hour and pot

Apple Fool

4 apples and 1 sponge cake, desertspoonful sugar, 1 egg

Bake the apples until soft, scrape the pulp out, add sugar and cake crumbled up and the beaten egg. Whisk all together, stir over fire till hot. Serve either hot or cold.