

Westcott Council School
Swindon

Tuesday, 11-8-14

My own little darling wife

How are you? & how are things going?

I hope smoothly. Sunday afternoon we were supposed to come here but as things weren't ready we had to wait till evening - came by 9 pm train & had to go without tea & when we got here sleep in a draughty school (accommodation 680) without blankets or bed on the hard floor. They have since suppose supplied us with a blanket mattress & pillows. 25 in each class room.

Yesterday we had quite a number of parades. & this morning a route march 11 mls. - my feet were absolutely sore. at 4.30 a parade in the Race where the Colonel read a message from Lord Kitchener asking for the Oxford Regiment to Volunteer for active service & be ready to go abroad if needed. The Norcesters Gloucesters had ^{gone} already, also the Yeomanry. You see the more men Germany can see we are ready to put on the field the sooner she'll give in. It will allow all the Regulars to be at the front & we can fill their places at the bases & keep communications & supplies open. Our Country needs us - we are to prevent England becoming a dependance of Germany & our homes & families safe from invasion by a counter attack on our enemies - To strike at their

homes. instead of letting this country being overrun with bloodshed. + Taxed as for a conquered enemy.

I'm ~~in~~ clothed in His Majesty's uniform for the benefit of my country + I'm under the impression that the needs of my country are imperative + so I'm intending to defend my home + loved ones to my utmost ability, if necessary. I think I must forsake all at duty's call - although duty does not mean always the advancement of Self.

It is not simply laying one's life down for a brother but for wife + family. + I love them + could not stand by + see England home + Duty go to the wall. It will be an example for Jack + for the boys at school. If volunteers do not come forward it will mean conscription + every man will have to.

If we go, we shall get home months sooner than if we stayed at home, because those that stay will have to do all the dirty work + the more men there are in the front the sooner the war is over. The Colonel says that we might be here for months or it might be $\frac{1}{2}$ a year or two as at headquarters they think it will be a long thing + they want trained men not those who do not understand military methods. We might be given leave off to come + see our people soon before we go.

As Ces & I are both away do you bear
to cheer mother up. Fancy, if the Germans
managed to get here how they would
demolish buildings, houses & ruin the country
with their armies. We are going to keep them
in their own country.

Well beloved ^{last or first Post.} (lights out) are sounding so I
must be drying up.

The Colonel said on Parade - "Have I
been with you 25 yrs & I'm giving up all
to go when my country needs me - don't
desert me" & we said we won't.

Now I don't want you to think I am
deserting you to follow him - I'm not, I'm going
for you - you will send me to fight for you
& Jack. - won't you Sweetheart You will be
brave & think of your home & country & as a
woman send your man to fight.

Nunnie dear the worst is I shan't fight but
only be one of those that enable others to do it
for me & mine. - But I'm doing my little bit.

Speak to the Vicar immediately. I don't think the
authorities will seize my pigs as they would

not be fit for food. Let me know as soon as you can what the Education Authority says about my pay - Explain to the Vicar that if I don't go I shall be away longer because of having to wait until all baggage etc has been cleared up after the expeditious force has come home.

Wish me God Speed & give me your blessing my beloved. Ask whether I shall have full or half pay I think you'll be able to manage if it's only half pay that's £60 so the rent need not worry you as what you are allowed will pay that & you can arrange with your Dad & Ma what to give them if you go to live with them. They get the furniture in a small house first.

Quick up darling write me a long sweet letter.

Since there is such a thing as Fate & if I'm to get the full Pension I shall get it & we are in eternity at the present time. Give my love to Dad & Ma. Don't let her worry. Put it to her as plainly and as clearly as you can.

Be of good cheer my wife. Don't let Jack forget his Daddy.

All my love to my little girl from your

devoted husband Bert