

There is a collection of around 35 letters held by the Bay Museum, Canvey Island and enquiries have been made regarding the origin of these letters.

Acknowledgements: [The Bay Museum](https://the-bay-museum.co.uk)

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/05/12/frank-springett-letter-12-may-1917/>

1, Frank Springett letter 12 May 1917

6649 Pte F.W. Springett
D Company 1ST Platoon
22nd Training Reserve
St. Albans
Herts
May 12th 1917

My Dear Brother,

I received your most welcome letter on Tuesday. I was pleased to hear you were quite well, as I am still A1 at present. The weather here is absolutely grand, in fact it is quite hot enough marching about. Well Sid I have had over a week under canvas now it is not so bad after the first night or two. The first night is rotten but it gets better according as the nights go on. Dear Sid they keep us jolly busy, in fact I haven't been up the town this week. We have a rotten Sergt Major and he gives us a job every night. On Wednesday we went trench digging again, that is some job. Thursday we went for a route march, about 14 miles. It was jolly hot and the roads were dusty. I felt as if I wanted a wash when I came back. We get plenty of Bayonet Fighting and squad drills but we know all that now, so we get on alright. It is very rare that I get checked about anything, if you keep yourself clean and tidy and do what your told, you don't go far wrong. I do hope you don't have to do this bally job, it is rotten and no mistake. Still I don't mind it so much now, I am just getting used to it. I have been joined up 2 months now.

Glad you liked the photo, Mother thinks it very nice, in fact they all do. It does not look much like getting a leave for Whitsun as spotted fever has broken out in A Company and they are camping close to us. Still perhaps I shall have a good try. Well Sid I could do with another donation as you call it, as I have just spent the last one. Thanks very much it is good of you. Nobody knows what it is like only them that are in it.

Money comes in very handy in this army and I can assure you I will not spend it without a cause. It comes in very handy to buy a supper with and a "drink" when you want one Dear Sid I don't think I have any more to say this time so I will close.

From your
Affec Brother
Frank

Excuse writing. I'm in a hurry – Keep smiling

In cover addressed to Mr. S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road, Dartford, Kent.
Postmarked ST ALBANS 8.15 PM 12 MAY 1917

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/06/25/f-w-springett-letter-25-june-1917/>

2, F W Springett letter 25 June 1917

6649 Pte F.W. Springett

D Company 1st Platoon
22nd Training Reserve
St Albans Herts
June 25th 1917

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines hoping they will find you in the best of health, as I am A1 at present. I am sorry I haven't answered your letter before, but it is the same old tale, no time. I am glad you enjoyed your days outing. St Albans certainly is a very nice place. Well, Sid I don't think we are moving after all, at least until we are 18-8. They have altered it now. A draught went away last week to the Norfolk Reg. and Bob Lambert went with them. He was 18-8, still I can easily find another mate. I am sorry I made you so tired but I guess you didn't mind it. We are still having some lovely weather but not quite so hot as that Sunday. I think that was the limit. Well Sid I haven't much to say this time so I suppose I must close. Thanks very much for the way in which you treated me last Sunday.

Well Goodnight Sid

From your

Affec Brother

Frank

Letter with cover ST ALBANS 9.15 PM JU

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/06/30/f-springett-letter-30-june-1917/>

3, F Springett letter 30 June 1917

TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

H.M. Forces Recreation Room.

June 30th 1917

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines hoping they will find you in the best of health, as I am A1. Well Dear Sid, we are moving from here on Wednesday, and we are going to Harwich.

I am very sorry to say that it is quite true this time. I am sorry we are leaving as I like St. Albans very much, and that you will not be able to come down again for the day.

Do not write to me again, until you hear from me, as there will be no time.

We have had lots of showers lately, and one the other day nearly washed us out of the tent. Canvas life is alright in fine weather Ha Ha No I haven't heard from Ted since I saw him he doesn't seem to care whether he writes to me or not. Never mind, "perhaps he will some day." They have started leave at last, I am pleased to say. I think I will get mine soon after we get to Harwich. They are giving six day's too, I guess I'll enjoy myself, if threes' a chance. Yes that's a bad job about Mrs. Reed, she is some woman to fall out of a tree.

Glad you are getting plenty of work now, of course we are never out of a bally job. Ha Ha.

I don't think I have any more news this time only just think of me Wednesday full pack, kit bag & rifle marching along to the station.

Still, we keep smiling it is no good doing anything else.

Well Goodbye for a little while

From Your

Affec Brother

Frank William

In a hurry as usual

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Cover addressed to Mr. S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road, Dartford Kent.
Postmarked ST. ALBANS 7 PM 30 JUN 1917
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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/07/08/pte-f-w-springett-letter-8-july/>

4, Pte F W Springett letter 8 July

6649 Pte F.W. Springett
D Company 1st Platoon
22nd Training Reserve
New Hall Farm Camp
Upper Dovercourt
Essex

July 8th 1917

Sunday morning

My Dear Brother Sid,

At last I find time to write a few lines to you, hope they will find you quite well, as I am fairly well at present. I have got a bit of a cold, but it isn't nothing much.

Well, Sid I have arrived at this bally place, we came down here on Wednesday. It is some ride from St. Albans, and I am now 72 miles from London. I don't want to move many times in the Army, there is a lot of work for me, but of course I dodged all I could. Ha Ha.

Our camp is about 400 yards from the sea, so we get some sea breeze, but all the same for that I would sooner be at St. Albans.

Dovercourt is about 1 ½ miles from our camp and Harwich about two miles. Just before we got here on Wednesday there was an Air-Raid on Harwich and Saturday morning we had orders to scatter as the Taubes were coming. We never saw anything of them, but saw some of ours going towards London to meet them. I see in this morning's paper that they have done a bit of damage in London.

We are down here for coast defence and have already been in the trenches, with full pack and 150 rounds of ammunition.

I suppose it will be alright after we have been here for a while, but the tents are awful, they are so thin, and the least drop of rain comes through. The "General" comes round every day and yesterday gave us a good inspection. We are in the sixth Brigade now, and wear a six on our arms now, instead of a five. He is Brig. General Humphreys and he asked me what I used to do for a living in civilian life. He said something to nearly everybody. He isn't so bad.

Well, Sid I do hope you never have to do this kind of work, but of course I am quite used to it now, and don't take much notice of it.

The General told us that this is the half way house to France, so things look as if we shall have to have a smack of them.

I am writing this in the tent Sunday morning and it is raining hard.

Well, Sid I don't think I have any more news this time, So Goodbye

Best Love

From Your

Affec Brother

Frank W

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/07/10/f-springett-letter-10-july-1917/>

5, F Springett letter 10 July 1917

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY
Y.M.C.A.
H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

6649 Pte F.W. Springett
D Company 1st Platoon
22nd Training Reserve
New Hall Farm Camp
Upper Dovercourt
Essex
July 10th 1917

My Dear Brother Edward,

So you did wake up at last did you, or did you have to wake up. I bet you did Ha Ha.

I was very pleased to receive a letter from you also glad to know that you were quite well, I am fairly well at present. I have a bit of a cold but I guess I shall soon get over it. Yes Ted I have landed at this bally place, it isn't nice at all but I guess I shall have to grin and put up with it. Our camp is about ¼ mile from the sea, so we get a little sea breeze, which isn't at all bad.

What a job moving is "Oh Dear", you talk about work, you ought to have been down here last Wednesday.

Never mind we got over it but you can bet your life I didn't over do it. I was very busy all the while somebody was about. Ha Ha.

Our camp is on a farm and it is something awful. It rained the other day, and the mud was awful, everybody was swearing about it. Then they sat "keep your b****y boots clean or you will be for orders. Still, we are getting used to army now and know a few of their dodges.

Yes I was very sorry to leave St. Albans, but no doubt will get used to this place after a while.

I went to Harwich on Sunday, and saw 10 destroyers go out, and lots of other shipping so we see something sometimes. Just remember me to Mabel tell her I hope to see her again before I go out abroad, just keep it quiet but it will be about two months time, either India or France. I mean it "Seriously I Do".

I thought she was alright Ted, all the sailors have got girls in Harwich & Dovercourt. Never mind I will find something I bet Ha Ha.

We had orders to scatter last Saturday morning when the air raid was on, but we didn't see anything of them. We have to run to a certain hedge and lay down all of our Company, some of the chaps got a bit frightened. We have been in the trenches already, with full pack and 150 rounds of ammunition, so you see we are some soldiers now. We are really down here for coast defence. I expect I shall be home shortly, for six days, I guess I shall enjoy myself then.

Well, Ted I am enjoying myself very well, but give me St. Albans, some nice girls there.

Well Goodbye Old Boy

From Your

Affec Brother

Frank W. Springett

Excuse writing in a hurry.

With YMCA cover postmarked HARWICH 7.45 PM 11 JY 17.

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/07/15/f-w-springett-letter-15-july-1917/>

6 F W Springett letter 15 July 1917

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY
Y.M.C.A.
H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

July 15th 1917
Sunday Afternoon

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter I received a day or two ago. Hope you are still quite well as I am A1 now "thanks". My cold is nearly better. I am getting used to this place now, but of course it isn't very much. St. Albans was the place for me.

I am enjoying myself alright though, we don't get quite so many drills now, but a decent bit of other work.

Last night we had orders from the War Office to move the Camp, so all the Batt had to shift the tents under the hedges and trees and anywhere where they couldn't not be seen from Aeroplanes. Of course that is in our time they do all this moving business, and today I heard they were going to move our mess tents so I went out. Ha Ha.

I don't ask for a job as they will always give you one if they see you standing about.

We are still having lovely weather down here, but last night it thundered a bit but didn't rain.

Next week we shall have a busy week, as we are on a course of musketry, and the following week we shall fire our last course of firing, so that will mean another fortnight from getting leave.

I have had three letters from Ted since I joined up he doesn't seem to care much about anybody, perhaps he will one day.

You need not tell anyone but I think when we have finished this course of firing and we have had our leave we are going to India, I hope we don't go out there. Don't say anything as it is only a rumour.

Yes, Sid, I could do with some money as I am nearly broke again "worst luck."

Anything that you buy is so dear, they don't put the soldiers wages up, I think they ought too.

Well, Sid I don't think I have any more news at present, so I will close.

With Best Love

From Your

Affec Brother

Frank W.

Write soon.

6649 Pte F.W. Springett
D Company 1st Platoon
22nd Training Reserve
New Hall Farm Camp
Upper Dovercourt
Essex

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/07/26/fw-springett-letter-25-july-1917/>

7, FW Springett letter 25 July 1917

6649 Pte F.W. Springett
D Company 1st Platoon
22nd Training Reserve
New Hall Farm Camp
Upper Dovercourt
Essex
Tuesday

My Dear Brother Sid,

I received your kind letter and 10/- note this morning thanks very much.

We are out on the range now. Firing our last course, and its about five miles from our other camp. Of course we are camping up here for the week and I shall soon be home now.

It is very lovely right out in the country *heavy ink staining* enough to keep away from the German Aeroplanes.

It was a nice little raid here on Sunday. I was just going to have my breakfast when the guns started banging, and I saw about ten of them. They did fire at them for about 15 minutes, the noise was awful, some of the shrapnel from the guns fell in our camp but no bombs.

It was very funny, because we moved up here on Saturday afternoon, and they dropped some bombs right on the other camp but did not kill anyone.

I must not say too much about it as our letters are liable to be opened. *Heavy ink staining* quite understand I am like you about the paper. I have just borrowed a piece, as there is no YMCA up here. Still we can always get plenty when there's one about. I do. I had another letter from Ted the other day. I was surprised. Glad you are still getting on alright and take my tip keep alright, and where you are.

Well Dear Sid, I must now close as it is post time, there is only one post here a day. Still write to the same address they will find me alright then.

It is 19 weeks since I joined up, don't the time fly.

Well, Dear Sid, I thank you very much for what you do for me, perhaps I shall be able to repay you some day.

At least I hope so. Ha Ha.

I will now close.

With Best Love

From Your

Affec Brother

Frank W.

You will excuse writing won't you? Write soon.

Hope you are still A1 I am O.K.

With cover to MR. S.K. Springett, 29, Bath Road, Dartford, Kent

Postmarked HARWICH 5 PM 25 JY 17.

Envelope and cover heavily ink stained.

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/08/16/f-springett-letter-15-august-1917/>

8, F Springett letter 15 August 1917

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY

Y.M.C.A.

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

August 15th 1917

Same address

Wednesday evening

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter of yesterday, so pleased to hear you were quite well as I am still in the pink. Glad you got back alright; I suppose you are quite settled down by now.

Fancy 33 in a carriage it is a bit too bad, I had a first class all the way from Paddock Wood, they can't pull soldiers about as they like. Ha Ha.

I am quite settled down to the usual work again now, we have been trench-digging this last day or two. I dodged it all yesterday afternoon, but of course you have to be a bit slippery. Ha Ha.

Glad you have got plenty of work.

Yes you were quite a smoker during the holiday, a cigarette is alright in the army. There is nothing better.

No there don't seem any truth about us going across yet of course you know we should never go out as a Training Reserve, always a Regiment. I am still in the sixth Brigade, only a different Battn. There are four Battns to a Brigade.

Yes, if I were at home I would practice all day on that weight.

It was fine sport I enjoyed it very much.

I was in part of that air raid on Sunday. I saw five of them, the guns drove them off.

The guns are a bit too hot I think, for them round this way.

It makes a bit of sport when they come, but of course it is jolly bad when they kill people.

Well, Sid I had a jolly nice parcel from home today, the contents were jolly good.

No Sid I am very well off at present thank you very much, and shall be for a week or two I hope.

I went down to the Palace at Harwich on Saturday it was jolly good. "Some fine girls on the stage". Ha Ha.

Well, Sid I haven't any more news at present, so I will close hoping this letter finds you quite well.

With Best Love

From Your

Affec Brother

Frank W

Write soon.

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked HARWICH 9.45 AM 16 AU 17

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/08/26/f-springett-letter-26-august-1917/>

9, F Springett letter 26 August 1917

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY

Y.M.C.A.

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

August 26th 1917

Same address

Sunday afternoon.

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter received a few days ago. Glad to hear that you were quite well I am still A1.

I am sorry to hear that you haven't much work but perhaps by now you have. I do hope they still keep you busy at Crayford if they don't anywhere else. Ha Ha!

Yes we keep getting a few air raids, we were up till 12.30 one night last week when the Zepps came over Yorkshire. We had just gone to bed when the order came through, to get up and get full pack together.

You can bet there was a little cursing going on.

Of course we didn't see anything of them. That's the sort of thing that ones has to put up with.

Still it makes a bit of sport as well as being a damn nuisance.

It's quite a bit of sport when they come in the day time. We had to run and get our gas helmets, and then bolt off to the trenches that are made for the job. Some of the chaps get the wind up. They never worry me very much it's no use worrying in the Army.

We are doing a lot of trench warfare work now, practically every day we are in the trenches.

We are also finishing our bombing course shortly and also bayonet fighting.

We have just started on Lewis Machine Guns this week.
So you will see they want us to know something of anything.
Last Monday they brought two German Destroyers in "down here".
Perhaps you have heard about it, or read it in the papers.
I have seen them today, they are painted very funny, half black and half white with big black spots.
The weather here is fairly good. Only we are on the top of a hill and the dust is something awful when it blows. I shall be jolly glad when we get away from this place, and besides it is getting quite cold enough for canvas life.
Well, Sid I don't think I have any more news this time, I hope you enjoyed your trip on the river.
Well Goodbye
Best Love
From Your
Affec Brother
Frank W

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked HARWICH 7.15 PM 25 AU 17.

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/09/10/letter-from-f-springett-7-september-1917/>

10, Letter from F Springett 7 September 1917

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY

Y.M.C.A.

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Sept 7th 1917

My Dear Brother Sid,
Just a few lines in answer to your letter of a few days ago. I was so pleased to hear that you were quite well as I am still in the "pink".
Glad to hear that you have a little more work we never get out of a job down this way. Ha Ha.
I am sorry the rain spoilt your trip but I guess you enjoyed yourself alright.
You got wet inside "eh". Sounds bad.
Dad wrote and told me about his job in London, it will be jolly fine for him.
We are moving this week Sid, I guess I shall be closer home, if the rumour is right.
Do not write you hear from me again please.
It as been very wet down here this last night or two. The rain simply pours in the tent so you can guess how pleased I shall be to get out of canvas and off the East Coast too.
Well, Sid you must excuse this short letter as I haven't much time to spare so I will say Goodbye.
I remain
Your Affec Brother
Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked HARWICH 7.45 PM 7 SP 17.

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/09/20/f-springett-letter-20-september-1917/>

11, F Springett letter 20 September 1917

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY
Y.M.C.A.
H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Sept 20TH 1917

Thursday

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter received today, so pleased to hear that you were quite well, as it leaves me very well at present. Sorry to hear that you have a had cold, I have just got a slight one, but nothing much.

It as been awful weather here since Monday, I can tell you there is some mud.

It gets dark so quickly now, there don't seem much time to do anything after tea.

Glad you have been busy again. I hope it will remain so. well Dear Sid, we are moving on Sunday night as near as I can tell you, so perhaps you hadn't better write to me again down here.

I will let you know my new address as soon as I know myself.

If you see Ted you might tell him, I am on the move I have only had one letter from him in six weeks.

Still I don't worry about it only if he can't write to me while I am in England, I'll see that he don't when I cross the ditch, which is very shortly.

I had a nice letter from Dad yesterday, he is quite well and getting on alright.

Mother sent me a parcel yesterday and a letter, they are all busy hop-picking at home and getting on alright too. Well, Dear Sid, I have enough money to carry me to Canterbury "thank you" but I should like some when you hear from me again.

It's jolly good of you to think of me.

Well, Sid I don't think I have any more news this time, so I will pack up.

I will send a card if we do move on Sunday.

So Goodbye Best Love

I remain

Your loving Brother

Frank William

P.S. Don't tell Ted what I say, or perhaps he won't like it.

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked HARWICH 9.45 AM 21 SP 17

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/10/05/f-springett-letter-5-october-1917/>

12, F Springett letter 5 October 1917

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY
Y.M.C.A.
H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Friday

Oct 5th 1917

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter I received today so pleased to hear that you were quite well as it leaves me still "Top Hole".

Yes we have had an air-raid nearly every night since we have been down here and it makes us rather late at night.
They have come right over our camp mostly every time but luckily have not dropped any bombs, you see we are only sixteen miles from Dover.
Still we don't take much notice of them we have had so many lately.
It as been showery here this last day or two and it makes the place very muddy.
Very sorry to hear that you haven't got much work to get on with, hope you will soon be busy again.
We have been issued out with new Short Le Enfield Rifles and they are jolly particular about them too. We are training a bit stiffer again now of course you know what for. Still I suppose that's what we are in the Army for. Ha Ha.
I am a Lewis Gunner now and I have been put in No 3 Platoon today they keep shifting us about.
Well Sid, I certainly hope you don't have to do this sort of thing it's alright at times but take my advice and dodge it.
Still you have done jolly good up till now. "Three Years eh" Ha Ha.
Well, Sid I can't get a week-end yet. I tried today but they won't hear of it.
I tell you that if they won't give me one shortly I shall take it and chance what I get. Ha Ha.
Well I must close as it's getting dark, hoping this letter finds you quite well.
Well Goodbye
Best Love
I remain
Your Loving Brother
Frank William.
I have been thinking about poor old Walter today.
Still I will have my revenge.
56153 Pte FW Springett
A Company 3rd Platoon
284th Infantry Battn.
Bourne Park Camp
Bridge
Nr. Canterbury
Kent
With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked ARMY POST OFFICE 35. 5 OC 17
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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/10/16/f-springett-letter-9-october-1917/>

13, F Springett letter 9 October

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY
Y.M.C.A.
H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Oct 9th 1917

My Dear Brother Sid,
Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter received tonight also the 10/- note. Thanks very much indeed for it, its jolly good of you to think of me.
Glad to hear that you were quite well as it leaves me "Top Hole".
It as been awful weather here since Saturday but as dried up a bit today. We could not go out at all on Sunday. It rained all day even the Church Parade was postponed.
Yesterday we went for a route march we shall get plenty of them now.
Thursday Evening

Thank goodness we shall soon be out of canvas. I think we go early next week.

I can tell you Sid, its getting jolly cold at night times. They have just issued us out with an extra blanket which will make it a little better.

Well Dear, Sid I think I have any more news this time once, again thanking you kindly for the 10/- so I will say goodbye.

Have you got a photo of yourself to spare, if you have send it along please.

Best Love

I remain

Your Affec Brother

Frank W

56153 Pte F.W. Springett

A Company 3rd Platoon

284th Infantry Battn

Bourne Park Camp

Bridge

Nr. Canterbury

Kent

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked Army Post Office 35 9 Oc 17

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/10/25/f-springett-letter-24-october-1917/>

14, F Springett Letter 24 October 1917

56153 Pte F.W. Springett

A Company 3rd Platoon

284th Infantry Battn

Margate

Kent

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to let you know that I have arrived at Margate. We are billeted in empty houses and they are fairly decent ones too, only of course some of the windows are out.

There are four of us in one room, and we have just got a nice fire together, and its jolly fine too, after the cold canvas life. Its raining jolly hard tonight.

Well, Sid I hope you are keeping fit, as I am very well at present.

I received your letters the morning as I left Canterbury and no doubt you have received the one I wrote last Sunday.

Well Dear Sid, I haven't got much time tonight, so I will draw to a close. I will write a longer letter next time.

So Goodbye

I remain

Your Affec Brother

Frank William

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked Margate 9.45 PM 24 OCT 17

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/11/06/f-springett-letter-6-november-1917/>

15, F Springett letter 6 November 1917

56153 Rfln F.W. Springett
A Company 3rd Platoon
51st G. Battn Kings Royal Rifles
Cliftonville
Margate
Kent
Nov 6th 1917

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your letter of a few days ago. So sorry to have kept you waiting but I haven't really had any time to spare.

So pleased to hear that you were quite well. I am still A4.

Well Sid, I like Margate very much only it would be much better if there were more civilians about.

Glad you made a trip down home last week. I think it is about time I made one too.

We get plenty of Air Raids down this way. They are nothing but a damn nuisance nearly every night we have the warnings.

Yes Sid, I enjoy myself the best I can and I am going to, all the while I am here.

That was my joke about the girls, there are not many down here now and then I get off with a bit. "Ha Ha".

I have just received a parcel from home, that will be alright for super. I might tell you.

You will notice I am in the King's R.R. now and I have got a badge at last.

I shall be able to swank now. "Ha Ha".

Well, Sid I don't seem to have much to talk about, so I will close hoping this letter finds you quite well.

Goodbye Best Love

I remain

Your Affec Brother

Frank William

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked Margate 9.45PM 6 No 17

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/11/17/f-springett-letter-17-november-1917/>

16, F Springett letter 17 November 1917

56153 Rfln F.W. Springett
A Company 3rd Platoon
51st G. Battn Kings Royal Rifles
Cliftonville
Margate
Kent

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your letter of a few days ago, so sorry to hear that you have a rotten cold. I am still very well at present.

Its awfully cold here now, you must excuse the writing as my hands are nearly perished.

Glad you have plenty of work to do, hope you may continue to have plenty.

We still keep fairly busy, plenty of route marches, and all that sort of thing.

We went through the Gas Chambers on Thursday of course I passed alright Ha Ha.

I think I told you I were a Lewis Gunner didn't I, well we are going to pass our test next week. I want to pass, and I don't think it matters thank you.
I can't promise to be home for Christmas yet.
Sid, probably I shall though, for the last time. Keep this to yourself, don't tell them at home.
Well, Sid I had a decent parcel from home again this week. It was alright.
You might address my letters as Pte again until I tell you to alter it, they are a funny lot.
I suppose Ted is still alive and enjoying himself. I don't hear from him yet.
Yes, this is rather quiet down here now, but it is a lot better place than Harwich, my word that was some place.
I suppose you didn't keep on smoking did you Sid, that wasn't in your line "was it"?
I don't think I have any more news this time. So Goodbye Best Love
I remain
Your Affec Brother
Frank W
Write soon
With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked Margate 9.45PM 17 No 17

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/11/23/f-springett-letter-23-november-1917/>

17, F Springett letter 23 November 1917

56153 Rfln F.W. Springett
A Company 3rd Platoon
51st G. Battn Kings Royal Rifles
Cliftonville
Margate
Kent
Nov 23rd 1917

My Dear Brother Sid,
Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter received today, so pleased to hear that you were quite well, as it leaves me very well at present, except for a bit of a cold.
Very pleased to hear that you still have plenty of work, also that you are having a good time. The weather is rather cold down here but we don't get much rain, that's one thing.
I see we have another moon now. I expect the Germans will soon be over again to have another try to frighten us. "Ha Ha".
We have to get up and go down the cellars but Frank doesn't stop there long. I generally manage to crawl back upstairs and get in bed. One night some of us were caught "my word" you should have heard the Officer crack on. Ha Ha.
I heard from Dad the other day and he told me what he was giving Mother for her birthday of course with your help and Ted's.
I think that's a jolly good present for her. Well she is well worth all she gets, "what do you say?" I had a letter from Ted the other day.
The old Colonel is getting awfully strict, now we are in a regiment he's properly put the wind up the troops this week. Ha Ha.
One chap for swearing at a L/Corporal got 20 day's pay stopped and 20 day's pay stopped and 20 day's C.B. this is some life. Ha Ha. I have been awfully lucky I have never been up for orders yet, a jolly good record eh?
Things are a bit hopeful again, that's a jolly good victory for us out in France this week.
Well, Sid I haven't any more news this time, so will pack up.

You ask me if there is anything I want, which I am sure is very kind of you, of course another note would be very acceptable indeed.

Well Sid, I thank you very much for what you are doing for me, and hope to repay you some day.

Hoping this letter finds you quite well. I will close

With Best Love

I remain

Your Affec Brother Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked Margate 9.45PM 23 No 17

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/11/28/frank-springett-letter-28-november-1917/>

18, Frank Springett letter 28 November 1917

56153 Rfln F.W. Springett

A Company 3rd Platoon

51st G. Battn Kings Royal Rifles

Cliftonville

Margate

Kent

Nov 28th 1917

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter I have just received. So pleased to hear that you were quite well as it leaves me very well at present.

Thanks very much indeed for the 10/- note it will come in very handy, it's awfully good of you to think of me.

Dad sent me one the other day so you see I've been awfully lucky this week. "Ha Ha".

Dear Sid, I think perhaps I shall be home for Christmas, our Captain is trying to get it for us I hope for the best, we will have a nice time if I do manage to get home. "You bet".

It's a grand day here today just like a spring day, but it as been something awful.

We are still busy, plenty of route marches my word, some of them want a bit of sticking. Ha Ha.

We are going to Deal next week to fire a few rounds, just a refresher course.

Of course, you know that we are finishing our training shortly, I have passed out bombing this week

Well, Sid I don't think I have any more to say this time, there seems very little to write about as usual, once again thanking you kindly for the 10/- note I will close.

With Best Love

I remain

Your Affec Brother

Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked Maidstone 3 PM 29 NO 17

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2017/12/13/f-springett-letter-13-december-1917/>

19, F Springett letter 13 December 1917

Same address

My Dear Brother Sid,

Thanks very much for your kind letter received yesterday so pleased to hear that you were quite well. I am still very well at present.

Glad you liked the photo alright, they all tell me I looked jolly fat and well.

I don't think I have ever felt better than I do now, yes, there's plenty of fresh air attached to this job, that's one thing.

I was of course down at Deal when the last Air-Raid was on, I got up and looked out of the window, but did not dress.

I saw a Gotha in a searchlight, it was a decent sight, my word, they did give him some shells to get on with.

We have had it fairly easy this week so far, a bit different than last week. Ha Ha.

Lord French came down here today and had a look at us, it was only a march past this time. He then went on to Canterbury.

It as been rather a miserable day. I hope it will be fine for the holiday.

I think I can safely say that I shall be home for Christmas, our Captain is trying jolly hard for us, especially as he wants the holiday too.

Well, Sid don't forget to send one of your photos as soon as you get them.

I don't think I have anything else to say this time.

So Goodbye Best Love

I remain

Your Affec Brother

Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked Margate 5 PM 13 DE 17

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/01/01/f-springett-letter-1-january-1918/>

20, F Springett letter 1 January 1918

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY

Y.M.C.A.

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Jan 1st 1918

Rifn F.W. Springett

A Company 3rd Platoon

51st Bn K.R.R.

Cliftonville

Margate

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines hoping they will find you in the best of health as it leaves me A1.

Fancy her arriving at 3 o'clock that was rather a nuisance for you. Still I might stand a chance of seeing her yet.

I can't promise to be down here by Sunday next week. I hear that we are moving next Wednesday.

Still I will let you know as soon as I know, you bet I will.

It is awful cold down here, really to bad as our parade ground is right on the sea front.

The wind does blow too.

Yes Sid, I had a right time while I were home, thanks very much for all you did for me, I shall never forget it.

I've got over my leave now, it wants a bit of doing through.

Well Dear Sid, I hope this letter finds you A1. I don't think I have much more to say this time, so I will close, wishing you a Happy New Year also the Best of Luck.

Best Love

I remain

Your Affec Brother

Frank

P.S. Excuse short letter

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/01/07/f-springett-letter-7-january-1918/>

21, F Springett letter 7 January 1918

Monday Jan 7th 1918

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter received today, so sorry to hear that you were not feeling up to the mark, pleased to say I am A1, except for a bit of a cold.

Yes the weather is awful, it rained something cruel here last night but as been jolly cold today.

Well Dear Sid, there are not many more days left now for me to stay in England, I think we sail next Sunday from Southampton.

By all accounts we shall move away from here on Saturday. I have written and told Dad & Ted and I think they will arrange to come down by the end of the week to see me. I am sending a wire to Dad if we do move so perhaps he will see you, then you could arrange together about coming. Don't put yourself out or get into trouble if you do come because you don't want any of this game. Stick to your work just as long as you can.

I expect you get "fed up" at times but my word you would at this game. Ha Ha.

Still never mind I shall come through alright.

Yes we had the Air-Raid warning but saw nothing of them this time, it was a wonder though.

We have got nearly all new stuff issued out to us, so we are well away now.

Well Dear Sid, I'm awfully sorry I'm going our there, not that I care myself, but I know how Mother will crack on, she did about poor old Walt when he went.

Still you must go home a bit oftener and cheer her up. We have got some decent chaps in our lot, my word, they are having a game with the Sergeants this week too.

Talk about fun with our platoon Sergeant. Ha Ha.

Well, Sid I will pack up or I shall miss the (Draft) I mean the post. Ha Ha.

Perhaps you knew my birthday was on the 12th January did you? We are sailing on the 13th rather sharp on time, "Don't you think?"

Hope to see you before I go "West". Goodbye-ee.

Best Love

I remain

Your Loving Brother

Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked Margate 9.45 PM 7 JA 18

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/01/14/f-springett-letter-14-january-1918/>

22, F Springett letter 14-January1918

FOR GOD, FOR KING & FOR COUNTRY
Y.M.C.A.
H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Jan 14th 1918

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a line to let you know that I have arrived safe "somewhere in France". Ha Ha.

I hope that you arrived back alright with Miss_____ Oh I forget her name but that doesn't matter. She was the best one I have seen you with yet. Sid "Ha Ha."

We had a pleasant journey across. Some were sick of course.

I was so glad to see you once again at Margate it was awfully good of you to come, I shall never forget it. I can't give you any address yet, but I hope to in my next letter.

Well Sid, I haven't time for any more just now. So I will close. Hoping this letter finds you quite well.

Goodbye-ee

I remain

Your Affec Brother

Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked A.P.O. S.12. 17 JAN 18. Censor 1932

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/01/27/f-springett-letter-27-january-1918/>

23, F Springett letter 27 January 1918

Somewhere in France

Sunday 27.1.18

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines hoping they will find you quite well as it leaves me A1.

I am sorry I cannot give you any address yet but hope to in my next letter, but don't worry I am alright. I am enjoying myself fairly well up at this camp, we have plenty of sport and concerts and jolly good concerts too.

I see by the papers that some of you fellows will soon have to move I do hope they let you alone, they certainly ought to.

Just remember me to the "girl". Ha Ha.

Dear Sid, you know I cannot write much, so of course it means very short letters not like the "Blighty" ones. Ha Ha.

I will write again as soon as I get the address.

Well Dear Sid, just cheer Mother up when you go home. "Don't forget"

I haven't anything else to say. So I will pack up hoping this letter finds in the best of health.

Goodbye Best Love

I remain

Your Loving Brother

Frank

205166 Rifn F.W. Springett

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked A.P.O. Rest unreadable. Passed by Censor 5321

[F. Springett Field Post Card 3 February 1918 « The Bay Museum \(the-bay-museum.co.uk\)](https://the-bay-museum.co.uk)

24 F Springett Field Post Card 3 February 1918

FIELD SERVICE POST CARD

Mr S. K. Springett,
29 Bath Road,
Dartford
Kent England

Postmark

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

-
I am quite well.

~~*I have been admitted into hospital sick wounded and am going on well and hope to be discharged soon.*~~

~~*I am being sent down to the base.*~~

~~*I have received your letter dated telegram parcel*~~

Letter follows at first opportunity

~~*I have received no letter from you. Lately for a long time.*~~

Signature only F.W. Springett
Date February 3rd 1918

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/02/17/f-springett-letter-12-february-1918/>

25, F Springett letter 12 February 1918

Somewhere in France
Sunday Feb 1918

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter received yesterday. So pleased to hear that you were quite well as it leaves me fairly well.

I've got a rotten cold, but it will soon get better I expect. I shall never forget that Saturday when you came down to Margate we did have a time together "didn't we?"

So your girl is writing to me "eh well Sid" I thought she were a nice girl, about the best I've seen you with. Ha Ha.

I have joined my battn now so I have my proper address now write this address always

205166 Rfln F.W. Springett
D Company 13th Platoon

16th K.R.Rs

British E Force

France

I was transferred with my mate to the same platoon. So everything is alright, we even sleep together in our own barn. Ha Ha.

My hair is growing alright Sid, of course it isn't long enough to brush yet.

I could tell a decent tale of where I have been but of course I will leave it till I come home.

The weather as been rather wet this last week and of course it is a bit sticky now.

Yes Sid, if you can spare those mittens, I should be pleased with them, they are better than gloves.

Do not send any cigarettes I can get them much cheaper than you can buy them.

What about that photo you promised me if you have one handy just send it along.

You must excuse this writing but I am in an awful hurry as I am writing to everybody today. I had seven letters yesterday, and a parcel from home.

Well Goodbye Sid I do hope you will still remain in the works, just remember me to the "girl".

With the best of luck

I remain

Your Loving Brother

Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked Field Post Office 5X 12 FE 18. Passed by Censor ??57 W.H. McLean

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/03/31/f-springett-letter-march-1918/>

26, F Springett letter March 1918

France

Monday

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter which I received a day or two ago.

So glad to hear that you were quite well I am still A1.

I am sorry I haven't written before but I have been busy with Fritz "you know" Ha Ha.

My word Sid I had a lovely box of cigs and toffees from Helen the other day I might tell you they came in very useful to. That was awfully good of her to think about me, I believe she likes me a little bit mind I don't cut you out. I am writing to her as soon as I get time, tell her that I received them quite safe and that I am writing as early as possible.

Glad you are still sticking in the works.

The weather here is not too bad but of course it is a bit sticky.

I am glad you enjoyed yourself at home last week. I could do with one of Mother's dinners right now, but still we don't do so bad for rations, I can't really grumble.

Well Dear Sid, just excuse this short letter also the writing because I have four more to write and very little time to spare.

Hope you are still A1.

Goodbye

Best love I remain

Your Loving Brother

Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent

Postmarked ? Post Office MR 18. Passed by Censor 3257.

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/03/02/f-springett-post-card-2-march-1918/>

Frank writes from hospital

27, F Springett post card 2 March 1918

FIELD SERVICE POST CARD

Mr S. K. Springett,
29 Bath Road,
Dartford
Kent England

Postmark Field Post Office 5X A 11 MR 18

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

-
I am quite well.
~~*I have been admitted into hospital sick wounded and am going on well and hope to be discharged soon.*~~
~~*I am being sent down to the base.*~~
~~*I have received your letter dated telegram parcel*~~
Letter follows at first opportunity
~~*I have received no letter from you. Lately for a long time.*~~
-
Signature only Frank S
Date March 9 1918
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[F Springett post card 13 March 1918 « The Bay Museum \(the-bay-museum.co.uk\)](https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/03/02/f-springett-post-card-13-march-1918/)

28 F Springett post card 13 March 1918

FIELD SERVICE POST CARD

Mr S. K. Springett,
29 Bath Road,
Dartford
Kent England

Postmark Field Post Office 5X + 13 MR 18

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

-
I am quite well.
~~*I have been admitted into hospital sick wounded and am going on well and hope to be discharged soon.*~~
~~*I am being sent down to the base.*~~
~~*I have received your letter dated telegram parcel*~~
Letter follows at first opportunity

I have received no letter from you. Lately ~~for a long time~~.

Signature only Frank
Date March 12th 1918

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/03/18/f-springett-letter-18-march-1918/>

29, F Springett letter 18 March 1918

Somewhere in France

Monday March 18th 1918

My Dear Brother Sid,

I received your welcome letter today so pleased to hear that you were quite well.

So sorry I haven't been able to write but I have been awfully busy you know. We are going up the doings again tonight. Ha Ha.

Yes those cigarettes & toffees were jolly good they came just as I were going up to the line.

It was awfully good of her, I have written to her.

Her brother is in a very good lot I have seen quite a lot of those chaps up this way.

Glad to hear that you had a nice time at Gravesend. We are having some lovely weather out this way now. We can do with it too.

I had a letter from home yesterday and they told me that Ted took Lilly home for the week-end and then this morning I had a letter from her.

My word I do get some letters.

You can guess where I am when I send cards but don't worry about it there's no piece made for me. Ha Ha.

I wrote to Dad yesterday and ask him for a few things of course we can't keep getting chatty out here. Ha Ha.

Yes I suppose you have some lively times up your way but my word I can tell you we have a few.

Dear Sid, you need not trouble to send those mittens on just now "thanks" the weather is getting better and I shall not need them. "Thanks all the same."

If you don't receive letters from me for a few days don't worry about it it's because I am up the doings. Ha Ha.

Well Sid, I don't think I have anything to say this time. Hang on in the works as long as possible.

Hope this letter finds you in the best of health as it leaves me A1.

Goodbye

Best Love

I remain

Your Loving Brother

Frank

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked Field Post Office 5X A 19MR 18. Passed by Censor unreadable.

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/04/09/f-springett-letter-9-april-1918/>

30, F Springett letter 9 April 1918

Somewhere in France

April 9th 1918

Dear Miss Ayers,

Thanks so much for your welcome letter & cigarettes I received a few days ago.

I was so pleased to hear from you, it does seem nice to hear from an old school teacher.

It's very kind of you to enquire after me, my sister Gladys has very often told me in her letters that you have asked after me, also Miss Gregory.

Yes we had it rather rough, but are now out for a little rest in a small French village.

It's awfully nice to get away from the line for a little rest and of course we make the best of our time.

This is a village very like Horsmonden and just close to our billet there's a little girl's school. It puts me in the mind of old times. I often think about the good times I had at school and often wish I were back again, especially when there's a War on.

Still we keep smiling and grumbling that's nearly all the British Tommy does. Ha Ha.

I hope you will be able to understand this writing. I'll lay the blame on the parcel I think. (One inch long)

I heard from Geoff Lambert the other day, he is quite well and back at Chatham again.

I saw Arthur Watts whilst on my draft leave at Christmas and we had a few hours together.

It will be fine to get back home again with all the old boys of course we all hope to.

I suppose H'den is awful quiet now, it was quiet enough twelve months ago when I left.

Well Miss Ayres I thank you and Miss Gregory very much for the cigarettes they are very acceptable out here, especially when they are shelling. Ha Ha.

Yes, certainly I will write whenever I get a chance a letter from you will always be very welcome.

I don't think I have anything else to say this time so I shall have to close this letter, wishing you & Miss Gregory the very best of health.

I might add that I am in the best of health.

Best Wishes to you both

Yours Sincerely

Frank W. Springett

Write soon

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<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/04/29/f-springett-letter-april-1918/>

31, F Springett letter April 1918 (sometime prior to 18th)

Somewhere in France

April 1918

My Dear Brother Sid,

Just a few lines at last hope they will find you in the best of health as it leaves me A1.

So sorry to hear that you have packed up at Gravesend still you know best about it.

I thought Helen a very decent girl, but I'm afraid they are all alike Sid. Ha Ha.

Hope you are still busy in the works. We are awfully busy as usual. This is some war.

I hope you had a nice time at Easter "did you go home?"

What do the people in England think about this new German offensive, got the wind up a bit have they?

Yes that stuff Dad sent is very good for the little devils when I get on the job sometimes I think of a cartoon I saw once. "Is the battle over Mother?" Ha Ha.

Dear Sid, don't forget to write my address properly next time. You left the Company out on the last envelope.

Well I haven't got much to say as usual so I shall have to pack up, hope this short letter finds you A1. "Cheerio."

Best Love

Your Loving Brother

Frank

What about that photo, send one on please, if you have one.

With cover to Mr S.K. Springett, 29 Bath Road Dartford Kent
Postmarked Field Post Office 5X + 20 AP 18. Passed by Censor 3 rest unreadable.

This was the last letter from Frank

Frank was posted missing on 18th April 1918

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/08/30/letter-to-mrs-springett-1918/>

Date unknown but prior to hop picking therefore likely August September as prior to hop picking?

32, Letter to Mrs Springett

Royal Hotel
Ramsgate
Saturday

Dear Mrs. Springett,

At last, a few more lines which I hope will find you all keeping well. I was very pleased to receive the nice letter which Alice wrote. I wonder if she has heard of another place yet. I kept my eyes open down here but nothing doing. The shop assistant places are so quickly caught after by the Local girls.

I am glad Edie likes her present home it is very nice her being so near you all isn't it?

Pleased to say I am still getting on fine here. It is simply lovely by the sea now we have some jolly times bathing etc. We are packed out every room here in hotel with holiday people & the town is full of visitors likewise Broadstairs & Margate. One would hardly think there is a war on. It seems as if people meant to have a good time this year in spite of everything. I suppose they have waited long enough for the war to end with no result.

I wonder if you have heard from poor old Frank yet. I had such a turn the other week when I saw his photograph & the nice account of him in the Ashford paper. It brought poor ole Walter all back again & Frank looked so like him. Fancy it is nearly two years since Walter was taken. How time flies. His memory is as green to me as ever. He was one of the best in every way to me & I shall never forget him. This is a wicked war & fancy it has been going on now for over 4 years. When is the end really coming.

My two soldier brothers are getting on alright Tom went home this holiday for 4 days also my sister & her hubby were home for over a week. I am so glad because it must have cheered dear old mum & dad up a bit to have them. I wish I could have ran home while they were there but nothing doing as we were so busy.

I have got a week's holiday to come as soon as the rush is over. So then I must go round visiting it seems sometime I am down here right away from everybody but we have to drift away don't we to earn a 'crust'.

I hope Mr. S & Ted & Sid are well. You see them otherwhile I suppose. How you must look forward to see them for a few hours.

What lovely weather we have been having but there is a change today. Here it has been raining fast. You will soon be looking forward to 'hop picking' won't you but I hear the hops look awful this year worse luck.

Now dear Mrs S I must ring off cheerio & look for the best.

With lots of love to you all

From Mary

I suppose Winnie has grown a fine girl now. Shall be very pleased to hear from you again anytime.

Cover to Mrs. Springett, "Tabors Cottages", Horsmonden, Kent.
Postmarked Ramsgate but rest unreadable.

Frank died of wounds 26th August 1918

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/08/26/letter-to-f-w-springett-26-august-1918/>

This letter from his father was written on the day Frank died

33, F Springett letter 26 August 1918

Tabors Cottage
Horsmonden
Kent
England

Aug 26th 1918

To No 205166 Rifleman F.W. Springett
16th Batt King's Royal Rifles
*** Kriegsgefangenen- Stammlagers
Limberg A.A. Lahn

My Dear Son Frank,

We have received two cards from you & we were all so pleased to know you was well, I am happy to say we are all very well at present. I have been trying to get your address so that I can send you something useful to you & when you write please tell me of anything I can send you. You are ever in our minds & will be to the end, I am still at the same place. Alice has left the shop & is doing well. Edith is still at the King's Arms & my word you will not know your big sisters when you come home. What a day it will be, Little Win & Jim are growing & Jim is fair little member. Ted & Sid are still alright, Mother joins with me & your Sisters & Brothers in sending our fondest love to you trusting that we shall hear from you soon I remain

Your Ever Loving Father
S.J. Springett

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/10/25/letter-to-frank-springett-25-october-1918/>

Sadly, Frank's father. Stephen, continued to write unaware that his son had died – a copy of this letter is shown below.

34, F Springett letter 25 October 1918

•
Letter to Frank Springett 25 October 1918
Tabors Cottages

Horsmonden
Kent
England
Oct 25th 1918

My Dear Son Frank,

It was with great thankfulness we received your letter. We were delighted & we will dispatch you a parcel as soon as we are permitted to do so. We are so pleased to know you are in a good camp & that your health is A1.

I am pleased to tell you we are all very well in health & Sid & Ted & myself have plenty in hand, I have started a new job not far from the old job & I am seeing a great deal of the War in all its realities. We trust it will soon be over.

I have written to Winchester & to the Red Cross London & believe me Frank we are doing everything for you that we can.

I have tried hard for months & the various replies will be interesting reading to you when it is all over & you are home again.

I suppose you have my photo & Ted's. Well, your Mother and the Girls will send you some on. Your Sisters are getting big Girls now & Winnie & Little Jim are a couple I tell you. It would do you good to hear them sing. The capers they cart me is something to reckon with.

Miss *Walters* got your card first & you may look for a good parcel from us independent of the Red Cross. I shall send money to them to send you a few things you want & I trust you will receive them safely.

I have received a letter from Charlie Smith's mother & she had a letter from him in Bavaria. He was wounded in the neck & he wrote home & sent our address; I have written to him & will send him something if I can.

The weather is getting cold & wet, which of course is common about this time of year. I might tell you I had 7 letters come back from France, parcels as well.

Well my Boy I must now close. I will write after & send you what I can. I have an idea what would be useful to you & you shall have it. Or it will be no fault of mine if you do not receive it. We shall be looking forward for the day when you come home.

Dad will kill the fatted calf. So with love & best wishes for you I will conclude this letter trusting the day will not be far distant when we shall be united again.

There are signs that peace & goodwill on earth will soon be an accomplished fact again. May it be soon. Your letter arrived on Sat Oct 19th.

From Your Loving & Aff Father
J. Springett

Cover to Kriegsgefangenensendung,
British Prisoner of War 1006
No 205166 Rifleman Frank W. Springett,
16th K.R.R. Camp *
Friedrichsfeld near Wesel.
Germany

Postmarked 25 OC 18. Rest of stamp unreadable

<https://the-bay-museum.co.uk/2018/12/28/letter-to-mrs-springett-27-december-1918/>

35, Letter to Mrs Springett 27 December 1918

Mr. C. Smith,
22 Chase Street
Luton Beds
27/12/18

Dear Mr Springette,

I send my deepest sympathy regarding your son and also my very best friend Frank who I was sorry to hear has been killed while in captivity. I was hoping to have another nice time together when we both got together again, so you can tell I was sorely disappointed when I arrived home yesterday and my mother told me he had been killed. I thought I should have cried as we have always been together during our army life and now I have lost the best friend I ever had.

I must thank your daughter Gladys for writing to my mother regarding Frank and you also, I think it was a great disappointment to Mrs. Springette when she heard about him after expecting him home anytime. I had to leave Frank in Belgium when we were captured as I was wounded and was sent to the hospital. He bandaged my wound for me and he then ask me to write to you if anything happened to him as I left him carrying wounded out of the line. Well I should very much like to see you during my 2 months leave, so if you can arrange to see me in London let me know if not I will try and get to Horsmonden.

Remember me to Jim and all at home and tell them I have arrived safe and sound at home and have my feet once more under my mother's table. I must now close my letter trusting this will find you and all with the very best of health.

I remain Yours Sincerely
Charles

With cover to Mr. S.J. Springette, Tabors Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.
