

2nd January 1916

Postcard from Brenchley to Russell
"Kingsley"
Godwin Road
Cliftonville
Margate

I am down here for a time to get ready for any pressure of work! Would you mind if I stayed a few days longer & returned in the middle of next week instead of at the beginning? I have made no arrangements yet & will of course return if you desire.

Yours sincerely
W.E. Brenchley

Note from Dr R. Agreed – yes stay by all means

5th January 1916

Letter from G C Sawyer to Dunkley

A. Coy
28th (Res) Batt. R. F.
25 Leopold St.
Oxford

Please note change of address. If there are any letters to be forwarded – sorry we have had to move as was very comfortable before, but apparently the diff companies were previously too scattered

Yrs
G.C.S.

6th January 1916

Letter from Russell to Brenchley

Dr Winifred E Brenchley
Kingsley
Godwin Road
Cliftonville
Margate

Dear Miss Brenchley

I am not sure that I can manage either Wednesday or Thursday but if I find that I can I will send a wire, otherwise we shall have to go on Monday the 17th inst.

We have had to stop your still from working at night. It has broken down twice, making two bad floods, one of which, at any rate was only stopped in time from doing considerable mischief

Trusting you are having a good time.

Yours very truly

6th January 1916

Letter from Russell to Keen

2nd Lieut Keen
Station House
Southend on Sea

My dear Keen

I hope you are progressing favourably, and beginning to feel fit again.

The fittings for your room are beginning to turn up, and if you get the chance of running over for the day at any time you might do so in order to make sure that every thing is going on all right. Certainly it is a beautiful looking place, and I am also having one of the rooms in the basement so equipped that it could be converted into a Physical Laboratory if at any time circumstances should require this.

With kind regards and best wishes for the New Year

Yours very truly

Letter from Dr Russell to K R Lewin

6th January 1916

2nd Lieut. K.R.Lewin
7th D.C.L.I.
British Expeditionary Force

My dear Lewin

I was very pleased indeed to get your letter and hope that you will come and stay with us for part of your leave when your people at home can spare you

Your laboratory is getting on very nicely, and the fittings are now beginning to arrive. I should like you to see them if you get the opportunity before you go back so as to make sure that they are all right, and that everything is in order

Trusting you are having a good time and with kind regards and best wishes for the New Year

Yours very truly

9th January 1916

Letter from Keen to Dunkley

Lieut. B. A. Keen 1/5 Suffolk Regt

Att^d 3/5 Suff Regt

Halton Park North Camp

Near Tring

Bucks

Sunday

My dear Dunkley

As it is some address I have showed it all at the top. You will see I am back at work – although it is only supposed to be “light duty” what with the beastly mud & the fact that I am the only 1/5 officer back at present, I have as much as I can manage. I intend if possible to get leave next week end (from Saturday afternoon till sometime Monday evening). If I am lucky to get it, I intend spending it at Harpenden with Mrs Keen for several reasons; one of them is the fact mentioned in Dr Russell’s last letter to me, that my fittings are beginning to turn up & he would like me to run over them. So I wonder if it would be possible for you to put us up for the time, or failing this, do you know of any ‘digs’ that would be available for the week end? I will let you know in good time if my leave is settled or not so as not to put you to any inconvenience. Another reason for my Harpenden is that we are seriously thinking of getting a house in Harpenden & we wish to “spy out the land”. I am counting on Prescott for help in this matter in view of his recent experience!

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

B A Keen

9th January 1916

Letter from Keen to Russell

1/5 Suffolk Regt

Halton Camp North

Near Tring

Bucks

Dear Dr Russell

Your letter was forwarded on to me here, as I have commenced ‘light duty’ with the 3/5 Suffolks. I believe Daish came here for a day or so before he obtained an extension of his leave. I wish I could get the same, for this place is an expanse of muddy steep hillsides, & huts!

I am trying to get next week end as leave & if I am successful I shall come to Harpenden & look over the laboratory fittings you mention. I am delighted to hear that the work is going on so well, in spite of the trade dislocation

Yours sincerely

B A Keen

12th January 1916

Draft letter from Dunkley to Keen

Dear Lt. Keen

I received your letter of Sunday yesterday (Tuesday) & should have answered it at once but Dr Russell asked to wait till he had an opportunity of asking Mrs Russell if they cd put you & Mrs Keen up for the two nights at the end of this week & this morning he told me they would be able to do so & I think he has written to tell you so. If he had not been able I shd have asked Mr Richards. Mr Prescott said he wd have been pleased to take you but he has only about half of his home furnished.

I am sorry we shd not have been able to put you up as we have three men of the 2/4th Leicesters billeted with us 7 as you will realise Mrs Dunkley has her hands pretty full. In addition our elder son may be home on leave from France for a few days any time from the 15th.

I was surprised when I got your letter to find you were near Tring. There are at least several Hertford men at that camp, including Bowden.

Both Dr H & Appleyard have been notified that there services may be required by the London sanitary Co. in about a fortnight.

Lt Buddin was in here last night. He had a few hours leave. He has been warned to hold himself in readiness to go out at any time to the "East" in charge of a section of 25 men.

Poor old Wilson is very ill with heart trouble & I doubt whether he will ever get to the Lab again.

With all good wishes for the new year

I am, Yours sincerely G.T.D.

12th January 1916

Letter from Russell to Keen

2nd Lieut. Keen
1/5 Suffolk Regiment
Halton Camp North
Near Tring
Bucks.

Dear Keen

I am very glad to hear that you are likely to be at Harpenden for next week-end. Will you and Mrs Keen stay with us during that time? We should be very pleased if you would. Please consider yourself free to make any arrangements you like while at my house, as your time will not be long, and there are no doubt many friends whom you would wish to see.

Yours very truly

New Laboratory fittings etc

12th January 1916

Should a hot water geyser be fitted in the lavatory?

If so what kind, as it has to deal with very hard water

Ask Dr Hutchinson to settle size & position of gas & water supplies to the new dark room (*12/1/16 Dr Hutchinson promised to see to this*)

Distilled Water Room – what size should the pipe be for supplying steam to the still?
(*not more than 3/4 " pipe*)

Also size of Water supply for cooling (*1/2 inch*)

Is a supply of water necessary to the steam oven in Weston ashing room? (*Yes 1/2 inch pipe would be ample*)

Gas to Muffle's in same room (*Yes – 1" or 1 1/4 " supply*)

Radiator in Physics room - altering position of valve

Radiators in Photo room W & N W project above bench. To be lowered

Engine & Rain water tank

Letter from K R Lewin to Dr Russell

20th January 1916

7 D.C.L.I.

B. E. F.

Dear Dr Russell

Your letter reached me after I had returned from leave. To my disappointment I was unable to get to Harpenden during the all-too-brief time I was in England

As regards the fittings for the Laboratory. I have no doubt that you will have noticed & rejected anything that isn't all right - from what I remember of my specification it went fairly closely into detail.

What I regret was being unable to make an opportunity to see you & all the workers at the Laboratory

At present we are in Corps Reserve, dolefully rendering an encore of our performances on Salisbury Plain. We go back to the firing line in about three weeks

I trust that you & Mrs Russell & the children have had a pleasant Christmas & will enjoy a happy New Year

Yours sincerely

K.R.Lewin

Letter from Dr Russell to K R Lewin

25th January 1916

2nd Lieut. K.R.Lewin

7th D.C.L.I.

B.E.F.

France

Dear Lewin

I am very sorry that we missed seeing you but I hope we shall have better luck next time. I expect you had all your days fully occupied, and can quite understand that there were none left over for us. Next time you are on leave I hope you will run out here if you can possibly manage it, meantime I trust that you are not having too rotten a time in the trenches; I hear that they are much drier than last year.

With kind regards

Yours very truly

27th January 1916

Letter from C Lawrence to Dunkley

Kimpton

Dear Sir

Just a line to say I am at Kimpton for a few weeks if you would kindly forward the note to Lady Hampden I should be much obliged

Yours faithfully

C Lawrence

29th January 1916

Letter from G C Sawyer to Dunkley

A. Coy.

28th (Res) Batt. R.F.

Etc.

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for your letters received this morning; am sorry I did not make it clear to you about the cheque; will you please have it paid in to Barclay & Co's bank as I have an account with them at Harpenden. I was disappointed at not finding you at the "desk of duty" last Saturday evening: I quite enjoyed my leave, which would have been still better but for the wretched Sunday Service on the Mid. Ry. as it was I walked to St Albans & caught the 8 o'clock train & landed in Oxford at 11.45; after that another 2 mile walk to the billet & then bed – up again at 6.30A.M.! I called round & saw Wilson last Sunday as I had heard that he is very poorly, but was hardly prepared for such a change. How is your son getting on now – well, I hope. Is he still in France? Last Thursday I went to the local theatre, 1st house, & as I was coming out I ran straight into Dr Eltringham, I hope to see him again in the near future as we could do little more than exchange greetings there. Have no news to tell just now – the exercise & marching still having a beneficial effect, though rather monotonous in themselves

Kind regards

From yours sincerely

G. C. Sawyer

29th January 1916

Letter from Russell to Lady Hampden

The Right Hon. Lady Viscountess Hampden
The Hoo, Welwyn
Herts

Dear Lady Hampden

May I ask if you will kindly see that the sum of £1, the value of the cheque enclosed herewith, is handed over to Mrs C Lawrence, the wife of our employee George Lawrence who is still on military service. She has I understand recently returned to her home in Kimpton for a few weeks. She should sign the enclosed receipt form and return it to me.

Yours faithfully

January 1916

Post card from Brenchley to Russell

“The Kingsley”

Godwin Road

Cliftonville

Margate

Your letter & card have just arrived. Could I meet you both next Wednesday or Thursday (12th or 13th) – then I could go with you to King’s College & return to Harpenden afterwards. That would be than coming back to Rothamsted first.

Many thanks for card

Yours sincerely W E Brenchley

4th February 1916

Letter from Russell to H Salisbury

Messrs H Salisbury & Son
Leyton Road
Harpenden

Dear Sirs

Will you please supply and build into the wall you are just now erecting in the Garden at the Laboratory House, on the side facing Mr Atkinson’s villas, a stone of suitable size bearing the following inscription –

“This Wall is the property of the Lawes Agricultural Trust, 1916”

Yours truly

E J Russell

7th February 1916

Letter from Weizmann to Russell re Appleyard

Admiralty Laboratories
Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine
Chelsea Gardens, London, S.W.

Dear Russell

Many thanks for your note of February 4th in which you recommend Mr Appleyard so warmly. I have just written to him to say that I will bring his name forward and that a salary of £250 per annum should be paid to him.

Thanking you once more,

I am,

Yours very truly

Ch Weizmann

Dr E J Russell
Lawes Agricultural Trust
Rothamsted Experimental Station
Harpenden

8th February 1916

Letter from Hutchinson to Dr Russell

Wyver
Spenser Road
Harpenden

Dear Russell

I had a reply from Hardy tonight to the effect that the Admiralty post carries with it residence but not board. He is unable to say anything about a Commission. As you stated earlier in the evening this would mean some of the cost of board whatever that may be, but in case there is no commission it also introduces the question as to whether the Lawes Committee would regard such bacteriological work as being "on active service". In any discussions you may have on the question, I should be glad if you would bear in mind that my present salary is £350 & not £300 as Hardy believed.

I am very much inclined to call at the Admiralty tomorrow to make further enquiries.

Yours sincerely

H. B. Hutchinson

11th February 1916

Note from Keen to Dunkley

Dear Dunkley

We hadn't time to come over to the laby this afternoon. If any urgent telegram etc. comes for me up to Sunday please telegraph contents to G E Station House, Southend

Yrs ever

B A Keen

14th February 1916

Letter from A Bowden to Dunkley

3 Coleswood Road
Harpenden

Dear Mr Dunkley

Many thanks for your note I received on Saturday. I paid a visit to the P.O. this evening & had it entered.

I am sure Athelstan would wish me to express his thanks

Yours truly

A. Bowden

15th February 1916

Letter from Weizmann to Russell

Ministry of Munitions of War
Department of Explosives Supplies
Admiralty Laboratories
Lister Institute
Chelsea Gardens, S.W.

Dear Russell

I understand from Dr Hutchinson with whom I had a conversation to-day, that you think that our laboratory is a private one, in order to avoid any misunderstanding I would like to inform you that we are a Government Laboratory and are working under the Ministry of Munitions and the contracts are made with the Ministry of Munitions.

I would rather like to get Dr Hutchinson as we are short of bacteriologists and you may have read that the Government has taken over all the distilleries and they will have to be controlled by bacteriologists for the purpose of the manufacture of acetone. We are ready to offer Dr Hutchinson a salary of £300 and I think the Board of Agriculture would complete his salary to £350 in view of the fact that he is doing war work. Dr Hutchinson tells me that Mr Horton would also like to do war work and his name was sent on to me by the Ministry of Munitions. I would be very

glad to see Mr Horton as soon as he can come up to London. As for Mr Appleyard, we expect him to come here and start work as soon as possible this week.

With kind regards

Yours very truly

Ch Weizmann

E J Russell
Lawes Agricultural Trust
Rothamsted Experimental Station
Harpenden

16th February 1916

Letter from Russell to Weizmann

Professor Weizmann

Dear Weizmann

I was very glad to receive your letter which puts the whole matter on a different footing. I was quite under the impression that your laboratory was a private one. So far as I am concerned I would have been quite prepared for any of my people to have gone to work under you, but I was not quite sure what view the Committee would take on the matter; but this is now perfectly simplified.

In regard to the pay you ought to take into account the fact that Dr Hutchinson will be put to increased expenditure through working in London, and I certainly think he ought to receive more than his present salary so as to cover this extra expense. That was my reason for asking for more money for Appleyard. Even in times of peace our men of science are not overpaid, and their salaries therefore leave very little margin for times like these. Under these circumstances I think he ought to get an extra £100 per annum as sustenance allowance to cover the cost of having to keep two establishments. This still leaves him a deficit of £50 per annum which should be made up either by the Munitions Board or the Board of Agriculture. I can approach the latter body, immediately the financial details are settled he would be prepared to start.

I will ask Mr Horton to call and see you as early as possible.

Yours very truly

19th February 1916

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Board of Agriculture, that the services of a

Bacteriologist are urgently required at the Naval Medical School, Greenwich, in order to release a Naval Medical Officer for general service, and that Mr H B Hutchinson, at present employed in a similar capacity at Rothamsted Experimental Station, has been nominated by the Royal Society as suitable for the post. I am accordingly to enquire whether the Board of Agriculture would be prepared to consent to the loan of Mr Hutchinson's services to the Admiralty for the remaining period of the war.

It is assumed that in that event this gentleman's salary would continue to be paid by the Board, in accordance with the usual practice in such cases. He would be provided with furnished quarters at Greenwich.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

(sgd)

C Murray

The Secretary
Board of Agriculture

20th February 1916

Letter from Keen to Dunkley

Halton Park West
Bucks

My dear Dunkley

Will you please note change of address from North to West Camp.

I received your P.C. to the effect that nothing came to the Laby for me while I was on leave. I fully intended trolling down to see you all but the time went more quickly than I anticipated & there was as it happened only just time to catch the train. I am taking the house next to Campbells in St James' Road. It is quite a nice little place with a good garden & ought to suit us very well. I wish this bally war would wind up so that I could settle down there!

Yrs sincerely

B A Keen

P.S. Let me have a copy of the annual report as soon as published.

21st February 1916

Draft letter from Dunkley to Appleyard

Dear Mr Appleyard

Mr Tweedie told me yesterday afternoon that all the bees he bought of you were all dead, & I understand that all of Campbell's with the exception of 1 hive & he thought that too would soon succumb. Am I to hand him the £2?

Abbott's waterproofing factory just below here was completely burnt out by a fire which started about 3 am today. There was a very fierce blaze for an hour or two. Trusting you like your new surroundings & work.

I am yours sincerely
G.T. D.

P.S. I will bear Mr Stephen's name in mind if I have any enquiries about

21st February 1916

Letter from Gertrude Bates to Dunkley

Addenbrooke's

Dear Mr Dunkley

Please be an angel & redirect this for me. In great haste. I hope you are all well

Yrs sincerely
Gertrude Bates

22nd February 1916

Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley

11 Carlyle Sq.
Chelsea
S. W.

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for your letter. I was sorry to hear abt: the factory. It would, I've no doubt, create a bit of a stir. I have used up my cheque book & want a new one. I have written to ask them to send me one, but they haven't done so. Would you kindly call in & explain how I'm fixed to Mr Barnes. It is important I should get one before the week is out. I should esteem it a favour if you would be so good as to buck them up. Perhaps they have forgotten about it!!!. I am settling down gradually. The work I'm enjoying. Hope to have a few more Rothamsted friends here soon.

The best of luck

Yrs sincerely
A Appleyard

22nd February 1916

Letter from C Lawrence to Dunkley

New Town

Codicote

Dear Sir

A line to say mother has moved into another cottage as you will see by the address if you would kindly forward the money to Codicote I should be extremely obliged

Yours sincerely

C Lawrence

22nd February 1916

Postcard from W Buddin to Dunkley

Thanks very much for card. I am afraid it is a very serious loss for the firm(?) I understand that Archie Appleyard is lodging at 11 Carlyle Square with half a dozen of our officers but I have not met him yet. I am still lounging about & sleeping here. My address is:-

1st Sanitary Coy

Weslyan Schools

Manor Street, Kings Road

Chelsea, SW.

Yrs W.B.

23rd February 1916

Letter from T H Middleton to Russell

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries
Whitehall Place
London, S.W.

No. I 1384/18916

Sir,

I am directed by the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to transmit herewith a copy of a letter which he has received from the Admiralty regarding the loan of Dr Hutchinson's services to that Department for the remaining period of the War, and I am to enquire whether the Committee of Management of the Lawes Agricultural Trust are prepared to consent to Dr Hutchinson's transfer, as proposed.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant
T H Middleton
Assistant Secretary

The Director
Rothamsted Experimental Station
Harpenden
Herts

24th February 1916

Ref:- No. 1 1384/1916

The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries
Whitehall Place, London, S.W.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of February 23rd I beg to state that negotiations are proceeding with the Ministry of Munitions with a view to Dr Hutchinson being taken over in connection with the Acetone work. In this case the Ministry would pay the whole of Dr Hutchinson's salary, so that there would be no charge either on the Board's Grant or on our funds.

The negotiations are not quite completed, and should they break down we should be prepared for Dr Hutchinson to undertake the bacteriological post indicated in the letter from the Admiralty of February 19th. I think in this case, however, the Admiralty should pay Dr Hutchinson's salary instead of securing his services for

nothing as they suggest in their letter; further, he ought to be allowed an extra sum to cover the additional expense of living at Greenwich.

I am, Sir

Yours faithfully

25th February 1916

Harpenden Urban District Council

Dear Sir

Exemption Claim

Edward Horton

I shall be obliged if you can furnish me with evidence that this Applicant has been recommended for exemption by the Royal Society

Yours faithfully

Chas. S Tuckey

Clerk to the Local Tribunal

26th February 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Mrs Martin Smith

Mrs E Martin Smith
Codicote Lodge
Welwyn
Herts

Dear Madam

I should be grateful if you would pay the value of the enclosed cheque for £1 to Mrs Clara Lawrence, as I understand she is now staying with her mother at New Town, Codicote. I enclose the usual receipt form for her to sign and return

Yours faithfully

G.T.D.

Secretary

26th February 1916

**Letter from Ministry of Munitions of War to
Russell re Appleyard**

Ministry of Munitions of War
Department of Explosive Supplies
Storey's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.

Dear Sir,

Your name has been given to me as a reference by Mr. Alfred Appleyard, who is under consideration for a post as a Chemist in the Department.

I should be much obliged if you will let me know, if possible by return, all you can about this gentleman, and whether you consider him, both as to his personal character and professional qualifications, suitable for the proposed appointment.

Yours faithfully

A. E. Taylor

Staff Bureau

Dr E J Russell
The Rothamsted Experimental Station
Harpenden
Herts

26th February 1916

Letter from Russell to Tuckey re Horton

C S Tuckey Esq. M.A.
Local War Tribunal
High Street
Harpenden

Exemption of Edward Horton

Dear Sir

I reply to your letter I have written to the Secretary of the Royal Society to ask him to forward a formal certificate in regard to Mr Horton

Yours faithfully

26th February 1916

The Secretary of the Royal Society
Burlington House
London, S.W.

Exemption from Military Service

Sir,

Would you be good enough to let me have a certificate of exemption on behalf of Mr Edward Horton, Soil Chemist of this Laboratory. He is shortly undertaking work under the Ministry of Munitions in connection with acetone, but in the meantime he has to put in his claim before the Local Tribunal

Yours faithfully

27th February 1916

Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley

11 Carlyle Square
Chelsea,

Sunday

Dear Dunkley

I should be exceedingly obliged if you would kindly ask Pearce to unearth the two pair of puttees which are in the box of clothes he packed, so that they might be sent to my brother who is in the Royal Flying Corps. Would you personally send them off to the address which I enclose. I will send you the postage by return
Dunkley

Address.

J. Appleyard No. 20852
2nd A M Squadron B
Royal Flying Corps
Hut 8. Camp 24
Training Centre
Larkhill
Salisbury

I am going out with Mac today. I am already fed up with the pavement & want to see a few trees & a bit of stock. By Jove, give me the Country Life. I don't suppose I shall be long here tho'. How is your boy? Have you heard lately. Macdonald is home. I met the family in town last week. He is looking very fit. MacLennan weighs nearly 16 st. I went to Paddington to see Buddin off to Egypt last night. He seemed in good spirits, but of course with his usual worried look. It was most exciting. Mac

is slacking here at H.Q. By Jove it must be most demoralising. 50% of the Sanitary Officers have been invalided, so I'm not sorry now to be out of it.

I am of course very busy with my work at the Lister, and so far I have enjoyed it immensely. The training will be most valuable. I don't care for town life and shall be pleased to get away from London

Kind regards

Sincerely yours

A Appleyard

29th February 1916

Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley

Admiralty Laboratories

Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine

Chelsea Gardens

London S.W.

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for the cheque and also for so kindly attending so promptly about the matter mentioned in my last letter. I have endorsed the cheque and shall be glad if you would pay it in for me. Yes, I was out with Mac on Sunday. He is on a light duty and seems to be fed up with lounging about at Headquarters. I wish we could get him on this acetone business for he would be most valuable. I am very glad to know your son is home. My kind regards to him. We are extremely at the Lister working night and day and so far there has been little but work & sleep for me. I am feeling my feet more now, but shall be pleased when we get the business properly organised. Dr Weizmann has this last few days produced benzene & toluene from butyl alcohol wh. Is a by-product in the production of acetone. Thus the supply is limited only by the rate at wh. plant can be laid down. Dr Thaysen is away at present & as Mac lives a long way off I don't see much of him. On the other hand I have little time to spare. I hope everything is going well at Harpenden. Yes, don't worry about my card Dunkley please. I hope to be in Harpenden before so very long when we can talk matters over.

H.B. is apparently kept very busy and I haven't had much time to talk to him. Everybody here is rushed.

How is Grace? Give her my love please, and also all the Lab: friends. I have had a policeman & two detectives round to see if I was a German spy. I think that I satisfied them when I demonstrated my ability to talk broad Yorkshire. How are my spring cabbages looking? Poor beggars they have no one to care for them now.

Kindly excuse more tonight I must get to bed

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A Appleyard

How much postage for those puttees do I owe you?

29th February 1916

Russell to Harrison, R.S. re Horton

Robert Harrison
Royal Society
Burlington House
London, S.W.

Dear Mr Harrison

Mr Horton did not attest. Another of our chemists consulted to local Solicitor, who gave it has his opinion that attestation was unnecessary. I enclose his full qualifications, so that the matter can be brought before the Committee. He has not got any badge. I did not take any steps at the time as I thought that by now he would be working for the Admiralty, but he is not beginning work for them for another three or four weeks; meanwhile the Local Tribunal intends to take his case on Tuesday, March 7th

Yours very truly

1st March 1916

Letter from Hutchinson to Dunkley

Spenser Road
Harpenden

Dear Dunkley

I enclose herewith cheque for £1 . 8 . 8 as payment for coal. If you are likely to be having any more within the next fortnight or so, I shall be glad if you can let me have one or two tons

Nowadays I find it impossible to get across during laboratory hours

Yours sincerely

H. B. Hutchinson

1st March 1916

Mr Edward Horton received his chemical training at the City and Guilds Technical College Finsbury taking the full three year course and being awarded the College certificate (1900). He then devoted himself to research work under Professor Armstrong FRS at the Central Technical College. From 1902 – 1904 he held the post of chemist at the Imperial Cement Works of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (1900)Ltd. From 1904 – 1913 he acted as private research assistant to

Professor Armstrong FRS at South Kensington during which time he was occupied with general organic and biochemical research. Some of the results of the latter were published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society (1908, B, 80, 321-331; 1910, B, 82, 349 – 362; 1912, B, 84, 471 – 484; B, 85, 109 – 127, 359 – 362; 363 – 369; 1913 B, 86, 262 – 269, 328 – 343). Since July 1913 Mr Horton has held the position of Goldsmiths Company Soil Chemist at this Station and has devoted his attention to the study of organic compounds in the soil. He has offered his services to the Ministry of Munitions for chemical work in connection with the manufacture of Explosives and will probably take up a post under Dr Charles Weizmann at the Lister Institute in three or four weeks for the study of the biological manufacture of acetone.

1st March 1916

A E Taylor
Dept. Explosives Supplies
Storey's gate
Westminster, S.W.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter I have much pleasure in giving you the following particulars in regard to Dr H B Hutchinson

He received his early training at the Harris Institute at Preston and gained a Scholarship which took him to Göttingen, where he studied bacteriology and took the PhD. Then he went to the Midland Agricultural College and worked at fermentation problems. In 1907 he was appointed Soil Bacteriologist at this Institution, - a post which he holds at the present time. He is an extremely expert bacteriologist especially in dealing with the soil organisms and with fermentations. He has published a number of papers in the scientific journals, which have proved to be of considerable importance in the development of the subject. He is a hard worker and a good executive officer, very loyal to his colleagues, and able to get the maximum out of his assistants. I can strongly recommend him for any bacteriological or fermentation work, and shall be happy to give you any further particulars which you may desire.

Yours faithfully

11th March 1916

Letter from G C Sawyer to Dunkley

A. Coy. 9783

18th (Res) Batt: R.F.

122 Hurst Street

Oxford

Dear Dunkley

This morning I received a letter from my old rooms in H. saying that someone had called there for my insurance card, upon being told that I had enlisted, the man said that my card should have been sent in & that “by this time I must be in arrears”; also that “the insurance could be kept on by those who had enlisted for 3^d a week”! Now this seems to me to be all nonsense, as in the ordinary way my contribution was only 3^d, & since I have been in the army 1 ½^d per week has been deducted from my pay for (as I understand it) the same purpose. Upon joining up here I was given a printed card – I forget altogether what it was for - which had to be forwarded to my “society” & stating my address; this I sent to the “Foresters”. I wonder if it would be asking too much that you should enquire into the matter for me? I have no chance of seeing to such things here, but I don’t at all see why, on my return I should find so many “arrears” to my name. I think you had my full card & book in order to hand in for me when they should be wanted. I should be much obliged if you could see to this for me.

This week has been quite a change for me as the duties have been altered somewhat; firstly, on Sunday night just as I was falling to sleep I heard the alarm bugles sounding. Naturally I dressed & turned out as soon as possible. This proved to be a false alarm, & after waiting about for an hour we were dismissed. Once more to bed; but no luck! I was just feeling at peace with all the world, when I was aroused by the station hooter (the recognised Zep alarm), but I came again, & this time I made such good time that I was the 4th to fall in. Some of us were detailed to get picks & shovels, & armed with these we had to “stand by” until 4 A.M.; as nothing happened we were again let off, but wasn’t I cold. Then on Wed. about 30 of us were detailed off together with the band to conduct a military funeral – I, with 5 other stalwarts, being chosen as coffin bearers. Lastly, we were taken down by companies yesterday & “had our pictures took”: so you can see altogether it has been quite a good week, & as the result of it all I have picked up one the finest colds imaginable; otherwise I’m feeling extraordinarily fit.

How are the new labs going now? Is progress still being made? By the way, did you see yesterday’s edn. of the “Evening News”? Surely in the Hertford photo. of the election there was one of the Harpenden police?

If you could manage to see into that matter of the insurance for me I should be much obliged

With kind regards

From yours sincerely

G. C. Sawyer

13th March 1916

Letter from E Horton to Dr Russell

10 Smith Street
Chelsea
London S.W.

Dear Dr Russell

I am sorry to say that it will be necessary for me to stop here for a few days. My people are moving from the above address probably on Thursday next and natural there is much to do (packing etc). Only my mother and her sister are at home, neither of whom is strong, so I must stop and help. I shall be much obliged if you will ask Dunkley to forward letters which may arrive at the Laboratory up till Wednesday morning (if I should not return before then) next, but not afterwards, to me at the above address.

Yours truly

E Horton

13th March 1916

Letter from Gertrude Bates to Dunkley

Addenbrooke's Hospital

Dear Mr Dunkley

I have put off sending you this receipt because I wanted to write at the same time & thank you for your nice newsey letter. I thoroughly appreciated it altho. you might not think so after the time I have taken to answer it. What a harem the Lab. has become, just nothing but petticoats, I should think the men will be thankful to clear out of it! Thank you very much indeed for sending on my note to Dr Hall, I got such a nice letter from him in return. It seems he has given up his "functions" & is evidently on the old job again. We have just now got the most awful epidemic of flu in the hospital (don't let my home people get to hear of this). Matron, the ...: Matron, two of the Sisters, about 1 doz. nurses, & maids by the bundles have all gone down with it. One of the empty wards has had to be opened for the nurses while the bigger bugs have been nursed in their respective rooms, & the maids in the women's medical ward. I cant think how I have escaped it for I have been with them all the time. I have been spending my time running errands. Now I must go up to Matron. So write again sometime. I love getting your letters

Kind regards

Yrs sincerely

Gertrude Bates

Letter from C Lewin to Dr Russell

13th March 1916

Radstock
Somerset

Dear Sir

In great grief I write to tell you that a War Office telegram to-day informed me that my son Kenneth R Lewin was killed in action on March 9th. This follows the loss of his brother (*Rex Richard Lewin 25/9/1915 and his elder brother Capt Cecil Charles Humphreys Lewin, MC died 2/11/1918*) on Sept 25th last, and of his mother on January 22nd. No doubt my son had certain belongings at Harpenden which it will be necessary for me to fetch away, and I will come some week-end to see about them. I feel sure you will be sorry to receive this news for he often spoke of the kindness he received from you

Yours sincerely

Charles J Lewin

14th March 1916

Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley

Admiralty Laboratories
Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine
Chelsea Gardens
London, S.W.

Dear Dunkley

Just a few lines to say how very sorry I am to have such bad news. It won't bare thinking about. Would you kindly include my name in any message of sympathy which you decide to send from the staff of the Laboratory.

You have my hearty support in any procedure which may mark our high appreciation of Lewin

Kind regards

Sincerely yrs

A. Appleyard

15th March 1916

Letter from Bowden to Dunkley

YMCA

H.M. Forces on Active Service

B Company 3rd Bat. Herts Regt
Hut No. 1 N. Lines North camp
Halton Park nr Tring Bucks

Dear Mr Dunkley

I am very deeply grieved to hear of the death 'in action' of Lieut Lewin. Kindly let me know if you hear anymore particulars.

Lieut: A.J.Daish has recently joined us, but I am very grieved to see the sad disfigurement to his face that his wound has caused him.

I have seen Lieut: Keen several times. Kindly send me a copy of an Annual Report for 1915 if you have one to spare & oblige. I have just paid a visit to Tring Museum this afternoon & inspected Lord Rothchild's interesting & splendid collection.

Several huts here are isolated, as the chaps have got measles.

We have sent 2 drafts out recently to reinforce the 1/1st Herts in France. I quite thought that I should be included in one of them but they obtained the sufficient numbers from A Company.

Please excuse this awful scrawl & pencil, as there is no ink available here.

Hoping your son is quite well.

I remain

Yours very sincerely

Athel H Bowden

15th March 1916

Letter from Keen to Dunkley

Halton camp West

My dear Dunkley

Please let me have Lewins' father's address will you?

If I see Daish I will tell him

Hope you are well

Yrs sincerely

B A Keen

15th March 1916

Letter from Keen to Russell

Att^d 3/5 Suffolks
Halton Camp West

Dear Dr Russell

I heard from Dunkley today that Lewin was killed on March 9th .

And so his is the first name on the Roll of Honour in our little world. Since the war began, several of my oldest friends & many of my own battalion officers – some of the best men I ever met – have gone , & I have become in consequence, familiar with the idea of Death.

But Lewin's fate has brought some of the horror of it back again.

Yours sincerely

B A Keen

16th March 1916

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries
Whitehall Place
London, S.W.

No. I. 2002/1916.

Sir

With reference to your letter of the 7th inst. (C.E.), regarding the proposed loan of Dr H B Hutchinson, of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, to the Admiralty for service as a bacteriologist, I am directed by the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to acquaint you for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Dr Hutchinson is now employed under the Ministry of Munitions and that he is, therefore, no longer available for the work proposed.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

(Sgd) T H Middleton

Assistant Secretary

17th March 1916

Letter from Gertrude Bates to Dunkley

Dear Mr Dunkley

Thank you for your letter. I am most awfully sorry to hear the news (*Death of K R Lewin*) & I think it is so terrible for his people. I saw his name in the Casualty List this morning for the first time. I wonder if this beastly war will ever come to an end. I hope you are keeping well, I have not heard of the flu raging in Harpenden like it is here, but it is beginning to show signs of abating, we have not

had a victim for several days. Seventy four in this Hospital alone went down in a fortnight.

With kind regards & many thanks for letting me know

Yrs sincerely

Gertrude Bates

17th March 1916 **Letter from J. Clayton to Dunkley**

(arrived 22/3/16)

Headquarters 2nd Division
France

Dear Dunkley

I have just received your letter with the sad news of Lewin's death. I don't need to tell you how very sorry I feel about it. I have asked Dr Russell if he is sending a message of sympathy to Lewin's father to include a message from me. Curiously enough I thought something had happened to Lewin & for the last 10 days or so I had looked for his name in the paper, but of course it hasn't appeared yet.

However, we have the Huns beaten now if only you will send us enough men & material from home, and stop the awful squabbling as to who is to go first. Surely the married men have a country & home to defend as well as the unmarried?

I hope you are all well at Harpenden. Shall be glad to have any more Rothamsted news when you can write me

Yours sincerely

J Clayton

Letter from C Lewin to Dr Russell

17th March 1916

Radstock

Somerset

Dear Dr Russell

Thank you for your letter, and for the sympathy you expressed. Your very kindly references to my son touch me deeply. I shall like very much to meet you and to see where my dear boy worked, so if I may I will wait a week or two until I have somewhat recovered and then write and accept your kind offer to receive me for a night

You are good enough to say you will have his boxes and desk packed and forwarded. I shall be very glad if you will do this. Perhaps the things had better come by Goods Train Carriage Forward.

I feel quite stunned by Ken's death: and I feel thankful now that his poor mother was spared this additional blow

Again thanking you

I am
Yours sincerely
Charles J Lewin

Letter from J Clayton to Dr Russell 17th March 1916

Headquarters 2nd Division
France

Dear Dr Russell

I have just received a letter from Dunkley saying that news has come of Lewin's death. It is needless for me to say how sorry I feel about it. If you are writing to his father on behalf of the old members of the Laboratory will you please include a message of sympathy from me.

Yours sincerely

James Clayton

18th March 1916

Letter from Russell to Bruce, Board of Agriculture

A B Bruce
Board of Agriculture
Whitehall Place
London. S.W.

Dear Bruce

I enclose herewith a copy of the Herts Advertiser in which you will see on p. 2 the account of our application to the Local Tribunal for exemption and 2nd ploughman Herbert Currant. I was unable to attend myself, being laid up with a chill, so our case was presented by the Farm Manager.

Harpenden is a residential district, - practically a suburb and the Tribunal has no agriculturist representative. Hence the view expressed by the Chairman that the plot work "does not seem a very complicated undertaking", and their further idea that Captain Jeffock's horses were sufficiently important to justify temporary exemption while our experiments were not.

By a geographical accident we come under the Harpenden Tribunal instead of St Albans Rural District. On p.5 you will find an account of the proceedings of this body showing that exemption was given in cases certainly less urgent than ours.

I am writing to the Harpenden Tribunal to ask if they can reconsider their decision, and pending their answer I am lodging an appeal based on the following grounds:-

- 1) Currant is engineman and second ploughman, and the only one of the farm hands who can read and write.
- 2) It is imperative that the experimental plots, both new and old should be continued. The information given by present and prospective plots is essential to our advisory and enquiry work.
- 3) Our Laboratory and Farm Staff is already reduced to a minimum, - 13 out of 14 who are now liable have offered for Service, being either in the Army or under the Munitions Board, and further depletion would be highly detrimental to efficient working.
- 4) The time is too short to train on a new man to do plot work, which, pace the Chairman, really is complicated work.
- 5) We therefore ask for exemption for Currant so long as he is engaged in his present work.

His attestation number is and the date will be I will notify you this when I have learnt it.

If you can support us in any way I shall be grateful. It is unfortunate that we were not a little further away as we should then have come before the St Albans Rural Tribunal, and should in all probability had exemption right off.

Yours very truly

18th March 1916

Letter to C S Tuckey – War Tribunal from Russell

C S Tuckey
 Clerk to the Local War Tribunal
 High Street
 Harpenden

Herbert Currant. Engineman & Ploughman to the Rothamsted Experiment Farm

Dear Sir

I regret that, owing to indisposition, I was unable to attend the meeting of the Local Tribunal at which exemption was refused to our farm engineman. So far as I can gather the whole of the circumstances were not taken into consideration, especially the fact that we are engaged in advisory work for the Board of Agriculture. The Laboratory and Farm Staff are now reduced to a minimum and out of a total of 15 now liable or offered for Service I am proposing to retain only two, the others either being on Service on(r) working under the Munitions Board. Any further reduction would seriously hamper our work. I would point out also that farm enginemen and ploughmen are usually considered exempt: the St Albans Tribunal

took this view (see Herts Advertiser, Sat. March 10th.), and granted exemption in several cases where the need was certainly not more urgent than in our own.

If the Local Tribunal has power to reconsider this decision I should like an opportunity of bringing the matter before them again. Such a course would save the trouble and expense of the appeal which I shall otherwise be compelled to make. And as I, myself, and also the official who I understand will support the appeal, and no doubt you also are all fully occupied in more important work, the advantage of settling the matter here if possible is obvious.

Yours faithfully

There is an error in the report as to our farm acreage; it should be 280 acres not 60. I am not sure what figure your Tribunal had in mind.

19th March 1916

Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley
Admiralty Laboratories
Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine
Chelsea Gardens

Dear D

Just a line to ask if you would kindly send me Mr Lewin's (Senior's) address. I thought I would write myself in case Dr Russell doesn't write on our behalf. I told Mac about Cherub yesterday. He was shocked to hear the news. The nicest fellows seem to be taken don't they? I cannot realise the truth of your news. When he was last in Harpenden he stayed in my digs till 1-30 am telling yarns. He was the most cheerful man I have ever met from the front, and I cannot help but think of him.

Did Dr Russell write that paper for the J. of the Bd. of Agric.? You know what I mean, that one on the need for spring dressings of N₂ salts. I hope he has not been too busy to attend to it. Things are going quite nicely

Kind regards

Yrs sincerely

A.A.

20th March 1916

Letter from Board of Agriculture to Russell
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries
8 Whitehall Place S.W.

Dear Russell

The Board will support the appeal in Currant's case.

Please let me have all the particulars, and the date on which the appeal will be heard.

I have just read your "Soils and Manures" with great pleasure and profit – but why did you avoid the "availability hypothesis"!

If “phosphates” hasten maturity is there more P_2O_5 per unit of weight of plant & if not why not? Please answer when we meet.

Yours sincerely

A B Bruce

20th March 1916

Harpenden Local Tribunal

Chas S Tuckey

High Street
Harpenden

Dear Sir

H. Currant

I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, which I will lay before the Tribunal, but I am afraid they cannot now reopen the case as the Appeal has been sent forward to the Appeal Tribunal.

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Local Tribunal

Dr E J Russell
Laboratory House
Harpenden

21st March 1916

Letter from G C Sawyer to Dr Russell

122 Hurst Street
Oxford

Dear Dr Russell

It was very unfortunate that I was unable to see you on Sunday – I was disappointed & especially so now that I hear you were actually at home when I called. It is very difficult & in most cases impossible, for me to say when I shall be coming, as the “leave passes” are usually not handed out more than an hour before my train goes. If, and when, I do get another leave I will certainly make “The Lab House” my first objective; but at present I cannot say at all when that will be, for there is every reason to believe we shall be leaving Oxford very shortly & there is no knowing where the next stopping place will be (rumour has it Edinboro’). A few weeks ago I lunch with Dr Eltrincham, & in the afternoon he took me round some of the labs. It was most interesting.

Hoping you have recovered from your recent chill

Believe me yours sincerely

G C Sawyer

21st March 1916

Letter from Russell to Bruce (Board of Agriculture)

A B Bruce Esq.
Board of Agriculture
Whitehall Place
London, S.W.

My dear Bruce

The appeal will be heard at the St. Albans Court, St Albans, at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday the 23rd inst. Unfortunately I have to be in Leeds, and so shall not be able to be there, but our Farm Manager, Mr S.J.K. Eames will be present. I enclose particulars but if you want anything more will you please ring up Mr Dunkley who will be able to tell you.

Yours very truly

Name. Herbert Currant

Age 19

Attestation Number 66760

Employment Engineman and 2nd ploughman on the Farm of the Rothamsted
Experimental Station

Other hands employed 9, all over military age

Acreage of Farm 280 acres of which 240 are arable

Character of Farm Reserved for experimental work, and at the present time especially to obtain information needed for Enquiry and Advisory work. As this information has to be promptly given it is essential that the Staff should not be broken up

Part played by Currant a) – Engineman, the only one who can work the engine. Owing to the shortage of labour it is indispensable that we should be able to use the engine on all possible occasions
b) – He is the only one of those knowing the plots who can read and write and thus interpret instructions and identification marks

Reasons for retaining Currant We are now right in the middle of the work, and the time is too short to train another engineman if we

could find him. There are altogether some 250 plots and no new hand could at this time do the work. The management of plots is very skilled work.

Other considerations By a geographical accident the case was heard by the Harpenden Urban Tribunal which had no farmer on it, instead of the St Albans Rural. Judging by the exemptions given by the latter body we gather that they would have given us the exemption without difficulty

Exemption asked for - Conditional on his being at his present work.

Herts County Appeal
St Albans Court

Thursday, March 23rd, 10.30am

21st March 1916

Letter from Russell to Local Tribunal

C S Tuckey
Clerk to the Local War Tribunal
High Street
Harpenden
Re Herbert Currant

Dear Sir

I am requested by the Board of Agriculture to furnish them with the date when this appeal will be heard in order that their representative may support it. Would you be good enough to give me this information or tell me where we can get it. If we are allowed any choice in the matter I should be much obliged if it could be subsequent to the 28th. Inst. as I have to go up to the North of England to-day, and shall not return until then.

Yours faithfully

22nd March 1916

Letter from Keen to Russell

1/5 atchd 3/5 Suff. Regt
Halton Camp West
Bucks

Dear Dr Russell

I spent last week end in Harpenden, & paid two hurried visits to the laboratory, but was unfortunate enough to miss you on both occasions.

I really wished to ask you if it was necessary to take any action over my position, not that, strictly speaking, my 3 years engagement has expired; or whether your suggestion – in a letter to Hutchinson, at the beginning of the war – that the time spent on service should not count towards the period of engagement, has been definitely adopted by the Committee. I joined the staff, you will remember, in Feb 1913, I completed 20 wks service before I took my commission.

Yours sincerely

B A Keen

Letter from Dunkley to C J Lewin

22nd March 1916

C J Lewin
Radstock
Somerset

Dear Sir,

At Dr Russell's request I have to-day despatched to Radstock per Midland and Gt. Western goods trains, carriage paid, the whole of your late son's effects. They include a roll-top desk, set of Book shelves, leather bound bag, bag containing golf clubs, tennis racquet, walking sticks etc. and seven boxes packed with various other articles.

Dr Russell will be away this next week-end but he will be pleased for you to come here at any time it is convenient to you. Will you kindly give him a choice of dates.

Allow me to add that I was much grieved to hear of your son's untimely death, and beg to offer my heartfelt sympathy on account of the loss you have sustained

I am

Yours sincerely

G.J.D.

23rd March 1916

Letter from Eames to Russell

Dear Dr Russell

The Appeal tribunal did not pursue the case of Herbert Currant far before deciding that it should go to the Central Tribunal – i.e. they would not give exemption but granted the right to appeal – taking the attitude that they were not competent to judge as to the national importance of the experimental plots.

The Board of Agriculture had put the matter in the hands of Crawford of Hatfield who told the Tribunal that they had marked it as “urgent”.

An appeal must be made in 3 days & so I shall fill up the necessary forms which are to be sent to me tomorrow, and send them in if you do not return. They can be withdrawn if you should decide so. I understand that the Tribunal wish the appeal to be made

Yours sincerely
Sidney J K Eames

24th March 1916

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries
Whitehall Place
London, S.W.

No. I. 2002/1916.

Sir

I am directed by the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to enclose for your information a copy of a letter addressed by the Board to the Admiralty regarding the proposed loan of the services of Dr H B Hutchinson to the Admiralty.

I am,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant

T H Middleton
Assistant Secretary

Letter from C J Lewin to Dunkley

25th March 1916

Radstock
Somerset

Dear Sir,

I thank you very much for packing & forwarding the things belonging to my son. They were delivered here to-day, and are, I believe, all correct. I have not

unpacked anything yet ---- that is a task I shall find most painful, but it must of course be done.

The desk is locked. Do you happen to have the key, & if so will you kindly send it on?

I shall be writing to Dr Russell shortly & I hope when I come to Rothamsted to have the pleasure of meeting you

You do not say anything about the charges but that can stand over until I come.

Please accept my thanks for your kind sympathy. Ken was a good son, and his loss, following closely on his mother's death and that of his brother has completely stunned me.

Yours sincerely

Charles J Lewin

26th March 1916

Letter from Russell to Keen

Dear Keen

There is no need to take any action as to your position as we do not consider that your engagement has expired; it came under a sort of moratorium the day you left and you will pick it up at the same point when you rejoin, which I hope will be soon.

I trust that Mrs Keen and the little son are going on quite well.

Yours very truly

26th March 1916

Letter from Russell to Keen

Dear Keen

There is no need to take any action as to your position as we do not consider that your engagement has expired; it came under a sort of moratorium the day you left and you will pick it up at the same point when you rejoin, which I hope will be soon.

I trust that Mrs Keen and the little son are going on quite well.

Yours very truly

26th March 1916

Letter from Weir to Dunkley

No. 4610
C. Company
3/4th Batt. Gordon Hdrs
South Camp
Ripon

Dear Mr Dunkley

Your note with its distressing news reached me a few days ago. It was very sad indeed to hear of Lewin's death, & I could not help thinking of him all that day. Perhaps you will find time to send me the fuller particulars when you learn them.

I am keeping very fit myself.

I am

Yours sincerely

William Weir

Card from C.J.Lewin to Dunkley

26th March 1916

(on Somerset County Football Association headed paper)

Radstock
Somerset

Dear Sir

I have now found the key about which I wrote to you

Yours sincerely

Charles J Lewin

Draft letter from Dunkley to C.J.Lewin

27th March 1916

Dear Sir

I am glad to learn that the packages reached you safely

As to the cost of carriage my instructions from Dr Russell were that the Lawes Trust will pay it & I accordingly instructed the Railway Co. to that effect

I am sorry to say I have not got the key of the rolltop desk. I think in all probability your son retained it in his own possessions. Of course there is a possibility that it may be in one of the other packages but I think it is doubtful.

Dr Russell is expected to return to Harpenden this evening

28th March 1916 Letter from J. Clayton to Dunkley

H.Q. II Div.
France

Dear Dunkley

Very many thanks for your long newsy letter. Most of the old staff of Rothamsted seem to be ticked off for some job or other now more or less directly connected with the war. Well it is about time. It has taken some people a long time to discover what we are in for. As witness the awful squabble at home as to who is to go first to the war. The result is that we pay both in lives and in money! I should have thought that by this time (and indeed long ago) any fit and eligible man, married or single, would have recognised that he had a country to defend and would have tried first to do the job for which he is most fitted and failing that would have offered his services in any capacity

So both Daish & Keen have rejoined their battalions and expect to be in the fight again. Well (without being duly pessimistic) I suppose they both and all other good fellows like them, have every chance of paying the same price as Lewin paid, and that the victory thus won will be made the occasion of the holiday shouting of those who stay at home. That is where the rub comes in, that these men must risk their lives not once but many times to provide the victory for which the stay at homes shout. Please give my kind regards to all left behind & to all the ladies in the lab.

What is wrong with old HB and MacLennan that I can never get a letter out of them. Just jog their memories will you

I'm almost wishing for home again at times its a long wait here

Best wishes to you

Yours sincerely

J Clayton

29th February 1916

Ministry of Munitions of War
Department of Explosives Supplies
Storey's gate
Westminster, S. W.

Dear Sir,

Your name has been given to me as a reference by Mr Henry Brougham Hutchinson, who is under consideration for a post as Superintendent of Factories under this Department.

I should be much obliged if you will let me know, if possible by return, all you can about this gentleman, and whether you consider him, both as to his personal character and professional qualifications, suitable for the proposed appointment.

Yours truly

G E Taylor

Staff Bureau

Dr E J Russell
Rothampsted Experimental Station
Harpenden

30th March 1916

“Central Tribunal”
Queen Anne’s Chambers
Tothill Street
Westminster, S.W.

Please quote (Harpenden 16519)

Subject: Appeal re H.P.Currant

Sir, I am desired by the Central Tribunal to state that before deciding your appeal from the decision of the Hertfordshire Appeal Tribunal they will be prepared to consider any further representations you may wish to make provided they are submitted within 5 days of the date of this letter.

The Central Tribunal also require you to answer the questions on the annexed sheet.

Your representations and replies should be sent to the Local Tribunal who will forward them to the Central Tribunal.

The Appeal Tribunal state “that the man is only just 19 of age and the Tribunal did not consider he could be a very important man in the management of the farm. They considered that there should be little difficulty in finding a man not of military age, to do all the work that the man appealed for, appeared to be engaged on”

Yours faithfully
J W Reading
for Central Tribunal

H.P.Currant
Harpenden

31st March 1916

Letter from Russell to Central Tribunal

Ref. – Harpenden 16519

The Secretary
“Central Tribunal”
Queen Anne’s Chambers
Tothill Street
Westminster, S.W.

Sir

In reply to your letter our special reason for retaining H.P. Currant is that he and his father know the experimental plots, of which we have over 200, and between them they can keep the plots going with such other help as is available.

The seeding, cultivating, harvesting and threshing occupies them the whole year, and in view of the heavy depletion of our Staff, it is impossible at this critical season to train on another man to take his place.

Out of the 14 men liable for Military Service I have arranged to dispense with 12, but I see no way of dispensing with all 14 without seriously affecting the work. Of the 12 who have gone, or are going, several were protected as Research Chemists by the Royal Society and could have been kept here without carrying the matter to the Tribunal; we did not adopt that possibility however, and we referred only this man, Currant, to the Tribunal.

Had I known last November that the case would have been rejected by the Local Tribunal I should of course have arranged the work differently, and kept one of the protected men: I could then quite easily have arranged to dispense with Currant. But now that they have gone the removal of Currant means the breaking down of the alternative arrangement I then made. I do not wish to suggest that Currant is indispensable for the ordinary carrying on of the work when the others are here.

It is the circumstance that so many of our people have gone, and that he is the only one left who can work the engine and also knows the plots, that make him indispensable.

I beg to submit that the special nature of our work ought to be taken into consideration, viz., that we are engaged in agricultural experiments and enquiries necessary for the work we are called upon to do for the Board of Agriculture. Had our case first come before the Rural Tribunal which had on it agricultural representatives I think there is no doubt the necessary exemption would have been given at once. Unfortunately I was unable through indisposition to attend myself and point out the importance of the work done here to the Urban Tribunal before which by a geographical accident the case was considered

I am, Sir

Yours faithfully

3rd April 1916

Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley

The Lister

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for your letter. Only you could have sent a stamped envelope.

Well now, no arrangement whatsoever was come to about my salary. You might consult Dr Russell.

What are they doing in Horton's case? What applies to him will apply to me. I haven't received over much from the Trust hitherto & so there is little hope of them giving me

How do you think we are doing in France? Casualty lists still appear. Glad to know Miss Bates is quite happy. Please tell me how my spring cabbages are when

you write again. I heard from Scott the other day. What about Bertie Keen? Has he gone out again or not? Remember me to your soldier son please.

Kind regards

Sincerely yrs

A Appleyard

14th April 1916

Letter from Sawyer to Davis

Boy's Brigade

Y.M.C.A.

Rest Hut

FOR MEN OF H.M.FORCES

9783 A Comp: 28th Res Btn R.F. regt

Stationed at Kings Park Schools

Edinburgh

The Mound

Edinburgh

My Dear Davis

I have been meaning to write & let you know my whereabouts for the last week, but have had no time at all for writing. We left our last place a fortnight ago last Monday & by Tuesday evening found our present headquarters in some empty schools. Everything was in an awful state of confusion – the first three nights we slept on the bare floors with 3 blankets for covering; the food also was rough & very scarce. However things are improving a bit in these respects, though I can assure you it is a very different game from billet-life! Our duties too are very different now, so far we have had scarcely any drills or marches & things of that sort. There are a hundred & one different fatigues & also we have to supply guards for five or six different places – some of Require about 20 men. Tonight for instance we had to supply a guard of 16 men: they commence duty at 5 p.m. this (Friday) evening & will not be relieved until Monday evening. It's a very strenuous game now I can assure you. In other respects Edinburgh is fine; & the air here is simply great! Last Saturday I called at Cunningham's address to see if by any chance he were here – some of his relatives (an aunt & cousins I believe) were at home, but they told me Cunningham himself has been at Cambridge for the last month in a Cadet Corps from which he hopes to get a commission in about 2 or 3 month's time. Am afraid week-end leaves are of no use to me now; & as extended (i.e. 6days) leave is only granted us when we have done our firing course & am qualified for a draft, I don't suppose I shall be able to call in at the lab. for a little time. Please excuse the paper I'm using. The school art barrack-room is almost impossible for letter writing so I came here, but find it quite as noisy, but it has the advantage of tables & chairs.

How are things going at the lab now. It seems ages since I heard anything of the place. Would you mind giving Dunkley my address so that he may know my present whereabouts.

Please give my very kind regards to Mrs Davis and with the same to yourself.

Yours sincerely
Bob. Sawyer

15th April 1916

Letter from W Buddin to Russell

O.C. Sanitary Section 87, R.A.M.C.
Egyptian Exp^y Force

My Dear Dr Russell

I was very sorry indeed to read in a copy of the St Albans Times I received of the death of Lewin at Verdun. It must be very hard for the family following on the death of his younger brother.

What are you going to do for a protozoologist now, Goodey has deserted you & both Martin & Lewin have been sacrificed in the war?

Has Prescott come out here yet or is he still waiting in England for a reply?

We had a very calm and warm trip out but of course I managed to be in a miserable state with sickness for 3 or 4 days and shall probably never be able to enjoy a seas trip. We were on an old Atlantic cattle boat had a very high time in their quarters below the horse deck. It was bad enough to have to go below for an hour or so prior to & during the inspection & it usually brought another turn of sickness. As I happened to be 5 minutes senior I was put in charge of 10 units on the boat & for 5 days after landing.

We spent two nights on the boat in and 4 or 5 days at Mustapha, just outside Alexandria and then I came on here with another section. We are now at – just outside Cairo - & do not seem to be wanted here at all. I suppose the of men here must all be “serving their country” – they are all in uniform – but I should feel much happier doing a little work in the Lab.

A Zepp raid on HQ here would be very useful. It is rather too warm here for me but I expect will get much hotter. It is quite a treat even to hear about snow storms in England. The day before yesterday we had a severe sandstorm and we chewed enough sand to last for few weeks. We all get a cough or shorter turn of diarrhoea & even out of my small unit three have gone into hospital.

I went on a visit to the Pyramids & Sphinx but I am afraid I was not very much impressed. The irrigated countryside is much more interesting.

Your children would probably enjoy many camel & donkey rides here.

Some parts of the town are very picturesque but other parts seem to be disgustingly filthy.

Tram fares are exceedingly cheap for military, if you succeed in getting all your change out of the conductor. They must make a fortune from the odd milliemes.

Hope to be transferred to a more useful sphere soon.

Best wishes

Yours

Walter Buddin

17th April 1916

Letter from Central Tribunal

Man Concerned - H.P.Currant
Local Tribunal – Harpenden
C.T.Number – 16,519

“Central Tribunal”
Queen Anne’s Chambers
Tothill Street
Westminster, S.W.

NOTICE OF DECISION

Sir,

I beg to inform you that your appeal against the decision of the Hertfordshire Appeal Tribunal, on behalf of Herbert Percival Currant, has been considered by the Central Tribunal, and that they have decided that the man be exempt until the 17th July 1916, in order that a substitute may be found if possible.

The Central Tribunal have directed the Local Tribunal to issue to the man a certificate of exemption in accordance with this decision

Yours faithfully

For Central Tribunal

Mr Sidney J.K.Eames
Lawes Agricultural Trust
Harpenden

26th April 1916

letter from Appleyard to Dunkley

Admiralty Laboratories
Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine
Chelsea Gardens
London, S.W.

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for sending on the draft from the B^d of Agric. Does it mean that I am to accept all the cash? That is too good to be true. Will you see Dr Russell unless you have already done so? If I am to receive half would you kindly pay it into my account at Harpenden. Well how are you getting on? I am probably coming down to Harpenden next week-end and hope to see you. I am sure there is a lot of news. At any rate I gather so from Mac. I went home last Thurs evening & returned yesterday. It wasn't much of a holiday but you know its very nice to get home now I again. All the boys have joined the army and the girls have got married. I saw you when I was down at Mr Eames for the weekend & yelled at you but you cycled on with superb indifference

Kind regards

Sincerely yours

A. Appleyard

27th April 1916

Letter from Bowden to Dunkley

3/1st Herts Regt. B Coy
Hut No 1 N. Lines
North Camp Halton Park
Nr Tring, Bucks

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines in haste to thank you for your most welcome letter which I was so pleased to receive to-day. We are going out on night operations to night so having the ½ day off I thought I would reply at once. We are free from measles etc. now. Yes Mother informed of Arthur's sad loss, in fact, I only received a letter from him on Thursday last. I must ask you to please excuse pencil & this awful scrawl as I am writing this on my knee over a tin lid. The sudden heat wave here is getting unbearable especially with full pack & rifle etc. We went for a 15 mile route march yesterday through Northchurch, Aldbury Common, Aldbury, & Tring. I used my permanent pass & cycled over to Luton on Good Friday & went to the three hours service. Easter has been rather quiet here in camp. We had some regimental sports on Easter Monday, but I didn't stay in camp to see them. I had a weekend pass due at Easter, but I was unable to obtain it. I'm just about getting fed up with things in general. I trust your son is keeping fit in France. One of the 1st Herts returned from France was decorated with the D.C. in front of the whole battalion this morning for

conspicuous bravery in rescuing wounded under heavy fire, until wounded himself. One can hardly realize when taking a nice country walk along a country lane now appearing forth in all the spring glory, that a dreadful war is raging a few miles away. Did you ever receive any details as to how Lieut. Lewin was killed? Well! I must bring these few lines to a close trusting you are enjoying good health & asking you once again to please excuse awful scrawl.

I remain

Yours sincerely

Athel H Bowden

1st May 1916

Letter from Daish to Dunkley

1/1 Herts Regt:

North Camp

Halton Park

Tring, Herts

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for sending up the copies of my papers to St Michaels. I was in Harpenden yesterday afternoon & found them there. Would you mind telling me if the lab: have got any more copies, & also could you find out if any copies have been sent out yet. Perhaps Horton would know if any have gone out. If none have been sent out would you ask Horton if he can find a list of the people to whom Davis used to send copies. Of course if the lab: are sending out copies it doesn't matter, but if not I must distribute a few.

I heard some little while ago that you were going to have an operation. I hope this isn't true, but if it is I hope everything will go off well. I was staying in Harpenden for Easter & went up to the lab: to try & see you but you weren't there.

Do you know if Keen has gone abroad again? I haven't seen him for along time & I have an idea that he may have gone. I see he has 2 son now, so I hope he hasn't gone away.

Everything here is very quiet. I am still on light duty & am really having quite a slack time. The camp is in a most delightful spot on the hills – in fact the country all round is awfully pretty. Perhaps you know it.

I suppose work at the lab: is pretty well at a stand-still now. I was very surprised to hear that Davis was going off to India – he seems to have decided very quickly. I just managed to see him on Easter Sunday for a short time.

I suppose Richards & Horton are about the only old people left now. It's very sad, but still it has to be, I suppose.

Please remember me to all

Yours sincerely

A J Daish

Letter from Sir John Thorold, Chairman LATC to C J Lewin 2nd May 1916

C.J.Lewin Esq.
Radstock
Somerset

Dear Mr Lewin

The sad news of your son's death was reported to the Committee at its meeting yesterday, and I was asked as Chairman to write and express to you our deep sorrow that so promising a life should have been cut so short, and to say how deeply we sympathise with you in your great loss, which must have been all the more poignant in that it came not alone but followed so soon after that of your wife and your other son.

All who knew your son at the Laboratory were impressed with him, and we all looked forward to a brilliant future for him. His investigations had already proceeded far to clear the way for others, and we know his pioneering labours will prove of great assistance for future workers. Thus, neither his work was in vain nor, we may be sure was his sacrifice: he will long be remembered at Rothamsted.

Believe me
Yours very truly

Chairman of the Committee of the Lawes Agricultural Trust

5th May 1916

Letter from A J Daish to Dunkley

The Hertfordshire Regiment
North Camp
Halton Park
Tring, Herts

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for your letter & for your congratulations.

I shall only send out a few copies of my papers to people who ought to have them. I shall keep the rest.

I am glad to hear you are so much better & sincerely hope you won't have to have an operation. I don't know what the lab: would do if you had to go away for a time.

Yours sincerely
A J Daish

5th May 1916

Letter from Bowden to Dunkley

3/1st Herts Regt B. Coy
Hut No. 1 N Lines
North Camp Halton Park
Nr Tring, Herts

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines to let you know that I expect to leave England for France about next Thursday.

Hoping you are quite well.

I remain

Yours sincerely

Athel H Bowden

Letter from Dr Russell accompanying the letter to C J Lewin from Thorold

5th May 1916

C. Lewin Esq.
Radstock
Somerset

Dear Mr Lewin

Herewith I enclose a letter from our Chairman, Sir John Thorold, of the Old Hall, Syston, Grantham which he was asked by our Committee to write, and which I was instructed to forward to you.

Please let me know when you can come up here, I shall be very glad to see you.

Yours very truly

Letter from C. Lewin to Dr Russell

10th May 1916

Radstock
Somerset

Dear Dr Russell

I thank you for forwarding the letter of Sympathy from the Chairman, and I have replied to it.

I want very much to come to Harpenden but there are difficulties. I am a Schoolmaster & my staff is so depleted owing to the war --- three of my assistants have enlisted --- that it is almost impossible for me to get away. During the present year I have been able to attend only one meeting of the County Education Committee though summoned to several.

However, I am free from noon on June 12 to the evening of June 19.

If it will be convenient to you to receive me for one night during that period, and if you will kindly suggest a date I will arrange accordingly. Of course, as it is Whitsuntide you may be leaving home and in that case I would defer my visit until my midsummer holiday.

I am,

Yours very sincerely

Charles J Lewin

Letter from Dr Russell to C. Lewin

11th May 1916

C.J.Lewin Esq.

Radstock

Somerset

Dear Mr Lewin

We shall be very pleased to see you here in June. Could you come on Wednesday the 14th, stay the night and have a look round the place on Thursday>

Yours very truly

13th May 1916

Particulars entered on forms (dated May 12th/16) of application for exemption from Military Service on behalf of A Oggelsby & B. Weston handed in to C.S.Tuckey Esq. on May 13th 1916

Wanted for the carrying out of certain operations in Agricultural experiments. Certain branches of enquiry are referred here by the Board of Agriculture who pay a large subsidy to the Station. It is imperative that these should be dealt with as speedily as possible and so large a number of our staff (15 out of 30) have left us for the Army or for Service under the Munitions Board that we are now reduced to the Minimum number necessary for the execution of the work. The work is very specialised and we are unable to train substitutes in the present depleted state of our staff

Occupation

Research or Analytical Assistant Chemists

A.O. 32 years (on May 5/16)

B.W. 29 years (on Aug 29/16)

Exemption conditional on remaining in present occupation

Letter from C.Lewin to Dr Russell

14th May 1916

Radstock
Somerset

Dear Dr Russell

Thank you. I hope to come to you on Wednesday June 14. I will write again nearer the time

Yours sincerely

Charles J Lewin

Letter from Dr Russell to C.Lewin 15th May 1916

Dear Mr Lewin

Wednesday, June 14th will suit us nicely, and we shall be very pleased to see you then

Yours very truly

19th May 1916

David Arthur Oggelsby

Born May 8th. 1884

Residence, Bellside, Luton Road, Harpenden

Recruiting Office, Watford

Attested March 5th. 1916

Bertie Weston

Born August 29th 1887

Residence Colesworth Road, Harpenden

Recruiting Office, Watford

Attested May 5th. 1916

Short Statement of Reasons for Claiming Exemption

Indispensable for the laying out of experimental plots and the weighing of the produce. Both men have had the necessary training and experience, and we have no others left who can do their work, the juniors who were being trained have already gone on Military Service. Time is too short to train others for the present experimental season.

(Signed)

22nd May 1916

Military Representatives Office
St. Albans , Sub-area No. 7

Capt Jeffcock
Hon. Recruiting Officer
XVI Recruiting Area

17 St Peter's Street
St. Albans

From Capt. Jeffcock
To Dr Russell

Dear Sir

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of information, touching on Agriculture in Connection with Military Representatives duties.

It may interest you to know that of 16 farms, about which I found that I had full particulars from the farmer, within a radius of about twelve miles from here; I found that the average acreage or arable land per ploughman in peace time was one ploughman to 74 acres.

This is rather less acreage than your first impression at our conversation.

The average today, in war time, of the same 16 farms is double the acreage.

One ploughman to 143 acres arable.

I understand that the War Office are making arrangements to assist the farmers with labour.

I was one of the Military Representatives, amongst others, who did not at that time understand the agricultural subject as well as we do now, who attended the meeting at Hertford, and suggested "The Tribunal Scale for Herts farms" as reported in the Mark Lane Express Agricultural Journal of May 8th, which I now return to you with thanks.

I am sure we do not grudge Mr Crawford of the Herts War Agricultural Committee the advantage which I think he gained for this scale from his agricultural experience.

Personally I take no blame to myself for recruiting men off the land in this district, as I am sure the Military Representatives did not press the Rural tribunals to procure the farm skilled labour, but simply accepted the generous offer of the Rural Tribunals who are mostly composed of farmers.

Yours Truly

W P Jeffcock

24th May 1916

Letter from Bowden to Dunkley
With The British
Expeditionary Force

1st Herts Regt
No. 1 Territorial Base
Rouen. France. B.E.F.

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines to let you know how I am progressing here. I must first of all ask you to please excuse this awful scrawl but I'm sure you will under the circumstances. Also I must ask you to please excuse the way I am sending this letter (via Mother) so to speak as we are only allowed to send two letters each week, which of course have to be censored & then we are issued out with a green envelope which of course the contents need not be censored, so I thought that I might enclose it in with Mother's in that way. Well! Now to make a start. We had a hearty send off from the battalion & had a very pleasant crossing feeling no ill effects of the sea-voyage, although at times it was rather rough. I saw many things of interest during the voyage which of course I had better not mention here. When we arrived in France we were, as usual besieged with children etc. (not to mention young ladies) for souvenirs etc. We are at present under canvas & the heat has been terrific, in fact nearly unbearable, but it has been broken to-day by a most welcome steady downpour of rain. I have been sleeping outside in the open these last few nights as it is much more comfortable. It seems rather strange here, as all the traffic (tramways etc) keep to the right of the road & not to the left as in England. If it were not for seeing the French people about here one might almost imagine themselves in an English training camp! Some things here are dearer. Oranges 1 ½ d each etc but here at any rate in this camp we pay nothing extra for cigarettes etc being the same as in England before the war. I have been exploring a bit at Rouen & have found it very very interesting. It contains some fine buildings including several grand cathedrals. Have received no frogs at present here, but I'm thriving very well on bully beef & biscuits & tinned soup. Also I am getting quite brown in fact nearly black & having had my hair cut as short as possible resemble something of a sort of escaped negro convict.

Shall be pleased to hear from you when convenient

Kindest regards. Hope you are well

I remain, Yours sincerely

A H Bowden (4107)

Letter from Lewin 24th June 1916

The books reached me safely to-day. I am much obliged to you for kindly forwarding them

C.J.Lewin

1st June 1916

Letter from Gertrude Bates to Dunkley

Addenbrooke's Hospital

Dear Mr Dunkley

I am most awfully sorry I have not sent you the last receipt. I really kept it because I meant to write to you at the same time & thank you for your nice newsy letter, I do so enjoy your letters & to hear what everyone is doing. I think the lab has played up jolly well, don't you, there are not many now left under its roof. We have been most awfully busy lately, the last few weeks has been a mad rush, but I love having plenty to do, the only drawback is I have no settled off time. I just take it when I can & of cause I think it would be impossible to have it otherwise. Next Monday I hope to go for a week's holiday to the Lakes with a great friend of mine. I do hope the weather will keep decent, so far it has been so perfect. Don't you love this daylight saving arrangement? I get up early every morning & amuse myself somehow, either punting on the river or, or bicycling etc. This morning I got up at 5.25 (4.25 really) went to Church at 6, got back by 6.50, had 2 cups of tea at the nurse's breakfast & then go for a swim in the river, the water was just perfect 56° not too cold. The first time I bathed this year the water was so icy I could only stand still & gasp & get out again it was just like ice. I hope you are well? I was over at Harpenden a few weeks ago just for a weekend but never got a chance of going to the Lab. Please remember me to the "Remnant". With kind regards

Yrs very sincerely

Gertrude Bates

I was most awfully sorry to hear of Arthur's sad trouble & meant to have written to him, but my own letters have simply had to go to the wall lately. Will you tell him how very sorry I am please G.B.

1st June 1916

Davis & Bailey
Boxmoor Works
Hemel Hempstead

Dear Sirs

Messrs Thompson & sons foreman tells us that you are unable at present to supply the fittings for the ash muffles required in the new laboratories here. As however the contractors are nearing the end of their work we shall be much obliged if you will do all you possibly can to supply what is needed at the earliest possible moment to enable them to complete the job.

Yours faithfully

G.T.D.

(Sec.)

6th June 1916

Letter from Buddin's family to Dunkley

87 Reighton Road
Up Clapham
N E

Dear Mr Dunkley

Sorry to say Walter is in hospital with enteric fever, went in May 19th .

We have had a letter from another officer to say he has got it in a mild form & is quite cheery

He is in a well staffed hospital near Cairo & quite comfortable & well looked after. The Officer says he will write each mail to let us know how he is progressing

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

J Buddin

P.S. He is not allowed to write but the Officer has promised to see he gets all letters sent to him, his address is:-

Capt W. B.

C.C. 87th Sanitary Section

Egyptian Exped Force

c/o G P C

14th June 1916

Letter from Daish to Dunkley

1/1 Herts Regt:
Halton Camp
Bucks

My Dear Dunkley

Just a private note please. I notice from my bank book that the usual was not paid into my account at the end of May or the beginning of June. I should be awfully glad if you would let me know if this is a mistake or if the lab: are not going to give me any more while I am away. Sorry to trouble you about such a matter but naturally I should like to know.

I have suddenly been fired down to Brigade Hdq: to fill a place temporarily which has been vacated by a man going to Eastern Command Hdqs: I know nil about the job & am floundering badly, but still it is a change.

Yours sincerely

A J Daish

15th June 1916

Draft letter from Dunkley to Daish

Dear Capt Daish

The omission was entirely my fault. I can only account for it by the fact that the books were away at the auditors at the time & I hadn't the list of the previous month to guide me. I omitted Keen's cheque in the same way. I am very glad you have called my attention to the matter so that I can rectify it when drawing cheques on Saturday next, 17th inst. I am awfully sorry I made the blunder.

I note you have got a job at B. Hdq: & hope in the course of a few days you will get well accustomed to the new duties.

We are very quiet here. The Trust Committee comes down on Tuesday next for their annual visit.

With kindest regards & trusting you & Mrs Daish are well

I am, yours sincerely

G T D

1st July 1916

Herbert Carrant, aged 19, attestation No. 66760

Employment - Engine driver and 2nd ploughman on the Rothamsted Experimental Farm

Other hands - 9 men, all over military age; one being 70, and 5 between 60 and 70.

Acreage of Farm - 280 acres, 240 of which are arable. This has been increased during the war, some of the grass having been ploughed up.

Work done by - 1). He is then only man on the farm who can use the binder,
H.P Currant (without which it would be impossible to get in the harvest),
2). He is the only man on the farm who can work the engine which is used for threshing all the corn, preparing roots for the beasts etc.
3). There are only two other men on the farm who can plough thus, if we lose Currant we should have one ploughman only for each 120 acres, but by keeping him we have one for each 80 acres. The soil is heavy and difficult to plough: this work can only be done by a skilled man.

Mr Eames, the farm manager, joined up in April, and his work is being done by Mrs Eames. It is necessary to the working of the farm that Currant be retained till after harvest, threshing, and autumn ploughing are done. Exemption for 6 months is asked for, conditional on his remaining in his present work.

3rd July 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Bowden

Dear Athelstan

I was sorry to hear a few days ago through Arthur Oggelsby that you were in hospital in Rouen. At first it was said that you had been hit by a falling tree or branch & later that you had some kind of fever. However whatever may be the cause of your illness I hope you will soon recover.

We had Mr Petherbridge in at the Lab this morning for an hour or two. He was staying the week end with Mr Randall down at the nursery. He is looking quite well.

About a fortnight ago Mr Sawyer was here for a week end. He is now stationed at Edinburgh. He was just recovering from an attack of German Measles. He was however looking quite fit. He returned to his regiment a day or two later, & one day last week Mr Richards saying he was in hospital with a second attack of German Measles, but he added that he was feeling pretty comfortable. He expects to go out to the front with a draft very shortly.

Mr Keen too was here about a fortnight ago. He is now Captain.

Dr Russell had a letter from Capt Buddin this morning. He too is on the sick list & is in hospital in Egypt owing to an attack of enteric. He hopes to be on two feet again in about a fortnight.

Mr Prescott, Mr Horton & Mr Richards are still here but Mr Prescott may start for Egypt at any time now, as he has been appointed chemist to the Agric. Society out there.

Cyril Pearce who joined the Roy. Field Artillery at Luton a few weeks ago has now been transferred to the Surrey Rifles & is training at Crowborough in Sussex.

We are having very unsettled weather & it is very bad for getting in the hay.

Yours sincerely
G T Dunkley

P.S. I have today paid £5 in to your P.O.Savings Bank a./c & have written to your mother to ask her to take your book to have it entered.

4th July 1916

Letter from W Wilson to Dunkley
Cravells Road

Dear George

Please excuse pencil. I am pleased to say that the Dr allows me to go in Bath Chair every afternoon if fine now & he allowed me to come down to tea on Sunday for the first time. I have not been allowed down stairs since I went up until Sunday. I am pleased to hear of the Promotions to Captains but am sorry to hear about Athel being wounded, we heard last night that "Little" was wounded very bad & his parents had a telegram last night to say he was sinking fast, he was taken by Boat with others to Bristol. I hope you are keeping well

Yours sincerely
W Wilson

6th July 1916

Draft notes in pencil by Dunkley

Dr Russell went round the Labs to consider the following points today. He was accompanied by G.T.D. Mr Brice (foreman) & White the plumber

1). Laying on of water to Mason lab. from the supply in the New labs instead of as at present from the North Wing

Decision – to remain as it is for the present

2). Gas to Mason Lab. from New labs instead of from the pipe supplying the Engine House.

Decision – to remain as at present. The nearest adequate supply would be to meet up with the ashing room.

3). The steam steriliser – at some future time to be placed near Still room (outside) or inside the Still Room. There is a head of steam which would supply the steriliser in the N.E. corner of the room.

For the present it is to remain in the iron building by the door to the North Wing.

9th July 1916

Letter from Gertrude Bates to Dunkley

Addenbrooke's Hospital
Cambridge

Dear Mr Dunkley

Please forgive me for being such an absent minded beggar & giving you all this extra trouble. Thank you very much for your letter. Yes I had just heard about Billy Rowley I am most frightfully sorry for his parents. And so poor Cyril (*possibly W. C. Game*) has had to go at last. I wonder if his health will stand it. We are most frightfully busy here, nearly 600 wounded in less than a week & all straight from the fighting. It is wonderful how rapidly they transport them across, they are here in hospital within 48 hours of being wounded & all black & grimy with the smoke & covered in mud. I've been meaning to write to you for some time for I want your valuable advice please. The letters Matron receives from the War Office etc have assumed such alarming proportions that they ought to be kept as a proper index system. Please how do you do it? So far I have paper folders headed "Resignations" "Transfers" "Financial" etc but I want something more detailed than that. For instance suppose the War Office writes about "Miss Smith's" resignation & then later on about her pay, & then they write about Miss Jones getting married (for some of them do & most would if they could) & all this is so difficult to index. I try and put all Miss Smith's things together but then they are not in their proper folders & if Matron wanted to look up something about her goodness knows what folder to find her in. How do you manage about the card system. Until lately I used to shy all Dr Russell's letters at your head & whenever I wanted one back you always knew where to find it. I also have to keep two letter books now one for letters received and one for letters sent out, & I have to write all about them, from whom sent their contents etc. That is easy enough but how to index those letters I don't know. For instance if a letter were about Miss Smith & Miss Jones going abroad ought I to put them in the index as under "F" I e Foreign Service, or under "S" & "J"? Altogether my poor

little brain is getting rapidly addled. I told Matron I was going to write to you & she said it was a good idea!! As it is when she asks me for a letter I just stand on my head and try to think which folder I put it into, for very often the letter is written on several different subjects, & about things in general & not any particular person. Please be an angel & come to my rescue. She has set her heart on a card index! Goodbye. Please forgive me for bothering you. I guess you have enough work to do without me crawling in. I hope you are well. Kind regards & many thanks.

Yours sincerely
Gertrude Bates

I call it awfully british of you to have stamped the envelope!!

11th July 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Miss Bates

Miss G Bates
Addenbrookes's Hospital
Cambridge

Dear Miss Bates

I received your letter of yesterday with the voucher duly signed for which many thanks.

As to the filing and indexing, it is rather difficult to try to offer advice without knowing more about the particular needs of the case. From the data you give me however I am inclined to suggest one of the following - -

(1) Have folders for each Subject according to the number of letters your past experience would lead you to expect may be required:-

Say for instance devote 10, 20 or more folders in one drawer of the file to "Resignations", and place a "guide" of a different colour in front of the batch clearly labelled "Resignations". Each of the folders should be numbered 1,2,3 onwards. Your index cards might then be on the alphabetical plan, viz. a card for each person as the enclosed specimen. In the same way you might devote another set of folders commencing at No. 50 say and going up to 100. Another set for "Finance" from 101 to 150, and so on. The same set of Index cards would serve all the sets of folders, that is if your number of subjects does not exceed about ten that can be accommodated on one index card.

(2) Another plan which would not necessitate the use of Index cards would be to have folders as under:-

Subject guide card "Resignations", and folders following labelled a, b, c etc, throughout the alphabet, and then the letters of say Ansell, Armstrong, Atherton

etc, would all go in folder "A". The names commencing with B into folder "B" and so.

The Globe Wernicke supply alphabetical folders as you know of about 40 folders to the set, the alphabet being split up something like the following A, Ba, Be – Bl, Bl – Bo, and so on making 40 in all.

I do not know if you are contemplating having file cabinets to take letters of quarto size or foolscap, but if most of your letters are foolscap it would be more economical to have a file to take letters of that size, as in a quarto file every foolscap letter has to be folded and therefore takes the place of 2 letters.

On the subject of précis and indexing letter books I am afraid I can be of still less help to you for I have done next to nothing in that line. I however enclose a specimen blank form similar to those used by my younger son when he attended the Strand School, in case this may be of any use.

If you are thinking of coming to Harpenden in the near future a talk of a few minutes on these subjects would perhaps do more good than the above suggestions.

Yours faithfully

11th July 1916

Letter from Gertrude Bates to Dunkley

Addenbrooke's Hospital

Dear Mr Dunkley

Yet another letter to bother you with. Could you tell me exactly how much money I was receiving from the Lab. before the war & on what date I went on half screw & how much that is now per year. The reason I ask is because I am trying to recover my income tax & I have now to say what further salary I am receiving. I know how much I get per month & I look forward to it with pleasurable anticipation (good expression that) but how much it comes to per annum is more than this little nigger knows. If you can let me know by return I shall be very grateful. I cant imagine why they want to bother me about what salary I receive.

With kind regards

Yrs very sincerely

Gertrude Bates

In pencil on a small piece of paper is the following in Dunkley's hand

Miss Bates		Mo.	Annum
Before war &	}	5 – 8 – 4	£65
Up to 1 Aug 1914	}		
Sept 1/14	}	2 – 14 – 2	£32 – 10
To	}		

12th July 1916 (arrived)

Letter from A Bowden to Dunkley

3 Coleswood Road
Harpenden

Dear Mr Dunkley

I am so grieved & vexed with myself to discover that after all the kindness bestowed upon Athelstan, that I had not acknowledge it cannot understand myself doing such a thing; unless it was being over anxious about the accident. I do hope that you will forgive the error. Many, many thanks for your kindness hoping to be forgiven as it is such an anxious time just now: Athel seems to be making a little progress for which I feel very thankful though I feel sure it is rather a serious case

Yours sincerely

A. Bowden

Pte A H Bowden (4107)

2. B Ward

2nd Birmingham War Hospital

Northfield

Nr Birmingham

Laboratory New Buildings

Suggestions to submit to the architects when next here

June 22/16 - Cracks in plaster work by the door leading into the Library should be made good

Should Chimney pots be put on furnace chimney stacks?

Door between GTD's & Miss Johnson's room?

Drip holes under taps

Wooden tops to W.C's – remove?

(The above were submitted to Mr Freeman when here on 12 July 1916
by Dr Russell)

G T D

13th July 1916

Draft letter from Dunkley to A Bowden

Dear Mrs Bowden

Thanks for your note. I can quite understand in the circumstances that you did not sooner write. I am glad to hear Athelstan is making progress & hope that now he is in England again he will soon recover. I wrote to him about 10 days ago but sent it to France so whether it will reach him or not I do not know. Trusting you will continue to have good news of him.

I am yours faithfully

G T D

13th July 1916

Letter from Gertrude Bates to Dunkley

Addenbrooke's

Dear Mr Dunkley

Thank you most awfully for your two instructive letters. I am so grateful to you for the trouble you have taken over both, & they will both be most useful. A sort of of memory has come back to me over the card index thing. My next step will be to try and get Matron to buy a folder drawer but I doubt if I shall succeed for after all it is only wanted during the war, she would have no need for it after. Such an extraordinary day, it has been very dark & very close & now I have just finished tea in the garden it has begun to rain. We were going to have had an open air concert this evening but it doesn't look very hopeful now. Yesterday Pembroke College invited 50 of our soldiers to tea but unfortunately we had a big clearance the day before so could only muster 30. I helped to push down one of the very helpless ones & was invited to stop afterwards and have tea with them but I already had a previous engagement. They gave them a splendid entertainment first in the dining hall, conjuror etc. & such a tea after, strawberries & cream etc. The men did enjoy themselves. There is going to be an Exhibition at the 1st Eastern of all sorts of work done by the nurses, patients & orderlies & anyone connected with the Hospital. Quite a lot of the nurses are showing things from here. I am sending a little pen & ink sketch but it is no more likely to get a prize than I am!! Now goodbye. Thank you again ever so much for all your trouble

Yours very sincerely

Gertrude Bates

15th July 1916

Letter from Bowden to Dunkley

2 B Ward
2nd Birmingham War Hospital
Northfield
Nr. Birmingham

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines to thank you for your most welcome letters which I was so pleased to receive this morning. I must first of all ask you to please excuse this awful scrawl & pencil. They have just had a telegram from the War Office proposing to chuck us all out (over 800 patients) & make room for 1000 German wounded. Needless for me to comment any further on the subject. Did Mr Grey receive the letter I sent him after we left Rouen & arrived 'somewhere in France'. I suppose there is no harm in mentioning names now, but one has to be careful. After we left Rouen for unknown destination we had an 18 hours ride in a train. Some ride too. Travelled so fast that we could have jumped out & picked wild flowers & then caught the train up! I hope I shall not bore you by writing this letter but I felt like letting my pencil go, as there is really not much else to do except read. Well, we got out near Arras & marched the rest & were billeted in old French farmsteads with plenty of rats for company. It was pitiful to see some of the villages we marched through absolutely smashed up by shell fire. Also I must say we got 'the wind up', a bit, when we were ordered to march about 8 at a time at a distance say of 50 yards as we were under observation from the German lines & so as to lessen the casualties if we were shelled. That was the first time I heard the 'guns' in warfare. What struck me most was to see these large wayside crosses, a huge crucifix by the roadside, & all round it smashed to atoms & this remained untouched. One church I visited had been shelled but although several shells had made big holes over the altar the cross remained untouched. Again another extraordinary case (they were of course all Roman Catholic Churches) & one picture had been knocked off the wall shewing Our Lord being nailed to the Cross. Well the heads of those nailing Him were knocked off & cracked & the figure of Christ was again untouched. Comment again unnecessary. I wouldn't have believed it but I have seen it. Also I was surprised to find out that the people in the villages just behind the lines took less notice of it all than we do in England. I was sorry I lost all my kit etc. in France when I shifted except a few private letters etc.

There is one chap in here had 111 wounds & he is getting on fine. Can walk quite well. Some Chap. We used to have some exciting times watching them shell the aeroplanes on either sides. Well, I think I will shut up now. I never saw the Regt as we were right away on another part of the line & attached to Entrenching Batt: I think I'm going on all right now. I felt rather queer the other day, can't remember much my temperature was over 104. The doctor won't tell me what it is,

as something else has set in beside the accident. They took a sample of my blood for analysis the other day & etc. etc. etc. I must consider myself very lucky it was no worse as it took 5 chaps to lift the stuff of me. You see when the alarm was given I couldn't get clear in time & I fell over some iron cutting both my legs & then the stuff fell across my back.

Re your letters, many many thanks for your kindness in again placing £5 to my credit. I was deeply grieved to hear of Lieut J(?) Stephenson's injuries. I trust he is progressing. No I've heard nothing of G Lawrence since last November, he was then at Thetford in the 4/1st Herts

Well: hoping you are quite well

I remain

Yours sincerely

Athel H Bowden

2nd August 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Bruce (Board of Agriculture)

A B Bruce Esq,
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries,
8 Whitehall Place,
London, S.W.

Herbert P Currant

Dear Sir

On behalf of Dr Russell who is away for a day or two, I beg to say that the term of exemption from Military Service granted by the "Central Tribunal" on April 17th last (C.T. Number 16,519) to the above expired on July 17th, and an application was accordingly made last night to the Harpenden Tribunal for an extension of the period but the case was dismissed by them. We are now appealing to the Herts County Tribunal, and Dr Russell would be much obliged if you would support the appeal when it comes before that body.

I enclose herewith particulars of the case. From these you will see that we are now asking for Currant's exemption solely as engine driver and ploughman, and not as before on account of the work he also does on the experimental plots.

Yours faithfully

G. T. D.

Secretary

2nd August 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Russell

Dr E J Russell
Harper Adams Agricultural College
Newport
Salop

Dear Dr Russell

Messrs Little & Johnston, steamship owners of 46 Leadenhall Street, E.C., phoned this afternoon to ask you to go tomorrow afternoon to some Chemical Works at 7a, Norton End Road, Fulham, to watch a test of wood passing through retorts. I told them you were away and not expected back till tomorrow evening of Friday morning. They said they might possibly be repeating the thing later and would write to you.

Messrs W H Smith & Son's representative came this afternoon but owing to labour difficulties etc. is unable to give us an estimate for the binding as a whole or to guarantee that the lot would be bound by any specified time. However I took some notes during the interview and will submit them to you on your return.

The local tribunal dismissed the application for the exemption of H Currant from Military Service, so Mrs Eames is preparing to submit the case to the Herts County Tribunal, and I have written to Mr Bruce telling him how the matter stands and asking him to do what he can when the matter comes before the County Authorities.

Yours faithfully

G T Dunkley

7th August 1916

Letter from Dunkley to W E Whiteside

Mr W E Whiteside
5a New Burlington Street
Regent Street, W.

Dear Sir

I return herewith your letter of the 4th inst. with answers to your queries as to the fancy knobs and lock plates to the doors inside the entrance hall here.

The only door which lacks the special fittings you mention is that leading to the South or Main Laboratory, and from that the lock and all the fittings are absent. I remember Messrs Thompson & Sons' foreman saying some weeks ago respecting these that they had been received and were found to be either left-handed instead of right, or right instead of left, and had been returned in consequence. He is just now

on holiday but if you desire it I will ask him to send you particulars as to what is required as soon as he returns.

Yours faithfully

G.T.D.

Secretary

7th August 1916

Letter from J Buddin to Dunkley

Up Clapton

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just received cable from Walter to say he is returning.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

J Buddin

22nd August 1916

letter from G Lawrence (2243) to Dunkley

4/1st Hants Regt

B Company

Killinghall Camp, Harrogate

Dear Sir

Mr Dunkley just a line or two trusting this will find you well as it leaves me at present. You will be surprised to hear that I have retreated to the ranks at my own request as they are sending droughts out an I could not go other wise. They say we are going to be attached to the Glosters so we may meet our chums by chance. I thought it best as I have trained a good many so I think it my turn to go an a few of those Ger.... There is most off us old are going out this time so I shall be with a few I no. I hope all the boys are well at home an that Athell as got quite well again. We had quite an emmagance move on Sunday morning last at 4 am. We were moving to the coast but towards evening things were normal. So we were allowed out. So. Sir. If I get with this drought I shall be going out the 1st off Sept. I will let you no when I land the other side. I hope to have a line if possible from you before I go as a letter from home cheers one up a bit an I am sure its my greatest wish to do my bit what ever come as I suppose I shall have to back some off the younger ones into action as I have got to put on my service an Conduct stripe so they may no I am not a recruit. Well sir I sincerely hope that the boys off the Lab are keeping quite fit an well an tell them that I will put a few Germans out off sight for them if they don't me. I think this is I think this is all the news this time trusting to hear from you an believe me to remain

Your Obedient Servant

G Lawrence

27th August 1916

Letter from Russell to Dunkley

9 Oriental Place
Brighton

Many thanks for your letter of information. I am waiting for replies (from Leeds and Newcastle) to my enquiries. I shall be in Harpenden to get slides etc. the day before my journey north, probably Sept 4th & 5th. Had very good run down – no rain – but found it rather dull - first time I have been alone on a trip to the coast. Brighton is a wonderful place for crowds – and such crowds. Showery.

E.J.R.

28th August 1916

Letter from Appleyard to Russell

Ministry of Munitions of War
H.M. Factory
Alexandra Dock
King's Lynn

Dear Dr Russell

I wonder if you would be good enough to write me a letter of introduction to Dr Brown of the Norfolk Farmer's Manure Assocn. The manure works are nearby and I should be very pleased to look over the place. It seems a big concern.

I came down here early in June in charge of the above place.

We employ 70 workmen and there are three more chemists junior to myself. The work is very interesting but very worrying. I am glad to say everything has gone excellently, but not without troubles. The work is continuous and as we keep the plant going day and night it is very strenuous. I have not had a single day off since I came to Lynn and have frequently to work through the night.

I shall be glad of a rest but see no prospect at present of getting one. As an indication of our success I may say that before we came down Strange & Graham's were losing £700 a week – or rather the Ministry were – and now we are making a clear profit of £1000 a week. Last week we had a record by making £1500 clear profit after deducting rent rates taxes wages, coal & raw material. In fact acetone costs the Govt. nothing now at King's Lynn. We turn out about 8 tons a week & double this quantity of butyl alcohol. How are things in Harpenden? Have you done anything more at our paper? I should be glad if we could finish it off.

I hope soon to send you a sample of a double silicate called Perninter(?) which is a synthetic product and has the property of extracting Ca from Soln. I thought it might interest Prescott. The Ca is replaced by 2Na & the converse takes place in high Conc. of Na.

Kind regards to Mrs Russell

Yours sincerely A Appleyard

1st September 1916

Letter from Russell to R F C

The O.C.
R.F.C. Recruiting Depot
S. Farnborough

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for your telegram courteously granting an extension of harvest leave for Private Eames, no. 27158, which will greatly help us in the very difficult and trying time we are having now by reason of adverse weather conditions. I can assure you your action is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

E J R

Director

4th September 1916

Letter from Charlotte F S Johnson to Dunkley

Dear Mr Dunkley

At last the long expected has happened and we have been favoured(?) by a visit from Zepps. I can only give you an account at second hand as I slept through the whole thing and knew nothing about it until the following morning. I gather that most people were wakened a little after one o'clock on Sunday morning (3rd September) by loud explosions, and it is thought that there were three machines over Harpenden; Busby says that one hung stationary over the village for 10 minutes. A bomb was dropped in the Broadbalk field about 40ft outside Currant's house, burying a shock, and breaking two or three panes of glass in his windows; beyond that there was no damage done. Two more bombs were dropped in a field off Redborne Lane, on the Scout's farm, and two more at Hammond's End; we have therefore cause for great thankfulness that there were no lives lost and no destruction to property caused. Essington Church, near Hatfield is said to be badly damaged, and the Chancel destroyed. But at least one Zepp has been brought down, and it is said that this was a super-Zeppelin; rumour also has it that two came to grief in the North Sea, but as yet there is no confirmation of this, although one hopes it is true.

I received the cheque from Dr Brown this morning and have sent it on to Dr Russell for his signature.

Grace (*Bassill*) is asking for a large quantity of medium ruled foolscap as she has a lot of writing to do for Miss Brenchley; I gave her what I could find, but she said it is not nearly enough. I told her she would have to make the other do until your return, if Miss Brenchley does not like this, it will be better for her to get some herself and charge it to the Lab, will it not?

I unpacked the typewriter this morning, and found exactly the same fault with one of the letters as that for which we sent it back to Remington; either they failed to replace the spring when overhauling the machine, or it had got out of gear on the journey. I fancy the former was the case, as Miss Crump and I have managed to get it right again - the question is will it stay right?

I hope you are having better weather than we are having here; yesterday morning we had a heavy thunderstorm with torrents of rain, and to-day it is very stormy.

With kind regards and trusting you will have a very nice rest and come back all the better for the change

Yours very truly
Charlotte F S Johnson

8th September 1916

Letter from Charlotte F S Johnson to Dunkley

Dear Mr Dunkley

Many thanks for your letter. You seem to be having a very interesting time, & I hope favoured with good weather. It is very nice to feel that your son is safely at home, this thought will I feel sure add to the enjoyment of your holiday.

I have now received the following subs:

Lord Iveagh	10	10
J T Brunner	2	2
H Mellish	2	2
Sir H Carlile	5	5
Dr Voelcker	5	-
Ellis & Everard	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>£27</u>	<u>1</u>

Shall I send these to Coutts, or are there any others to wait for?

With kind regards

Yours very truly

Charlotte F S Johnson

12th September 1916(arrival)

Letter from W A Davis to Dunkley

Agricultural Research Institute
Pusa
Bihar

My Dear Dunkley

I reproach myself that I have not written before to you but I have been awfully busy and travelling about much of the time so that I get little opportunity for letter writing. I have written to several Rothamsted folk however & you

probably heard a good deal of my movements. It is quite a strenuous life I lead & very to the quiet placidity of the Rothamsted Lab. Here I spend most of my time away from the lab. with making visits to the various indigo facilities situated in the most remote parts. Have got three native assistants & a good sized lab to myself. Most of the actual analytical work I leave to my assistants having broken them in. I have travelled some 2000 miles by motor car since I arrived so that you can see I have been getting about some. I managed to get the government to get a new motor car for me in less than a fortnight – which I understand constitutes a record for India. Usually it takes months for even a high official to get a motor car sanctioned. But I pointed out that I had myself come out at a fortnight's notice and was at a standstill until a car was bought & it was up to them to get a car in a fortnight also. I got straight on to the Government at Simla and they put it through & purchased the car in the time specified.

The travelling here in the rain in a motor car is fearful & wonderful. You never really know whether you will arrive at your destination because the roads have an unpleasant habit of being breached for a 100 yards or more by the floods, and after travelling 30 miles you may find the road gone. Sometimes too you have to plough through mud up to the axles for a mile or two – this is strict fact. Generally your car gets stuck & you then call up a gang of coolies & get them to push you through.

I have had one involuntary (*this bit is not clear except that the car ended up down a 4 foot high bank and Davis*) was shot out head first into 4 foot of water of the “most disgusting type” sank to the bottom & came up spluttering whilst the car gently subsided into the channel & stayed there.

Well such is life. I am getting my share of native service.

I hope your son is still quite well and uninjured by the army.

Please let me hear from you sometime. Letters are very welcome in this land of strangers.

With best regards to all

Yours very truly

W. A. Davis

Letter from Getrude Bates to Dr Russell

13th September 1914

Addenbrooke's Hospital
Cambridge

My dear Dr Russell

I am feeling an awful brute staying away like this and I do hope I am not causing you any great inconvenience, But I really don't know what I ought to do. I know it is making a tremendous difference to Matron having me here, & she is fearfully overworked, & I know if I left the authorities would never pay for any one

to take my place, yet on the other hand I don't feel I am treating you properly. The worst of it is I cant say any time when I think I am likely to be less wanted, so far I doing a good deal more than I did. I generally work all morning from 9a.m. till 1-30, some times part of the afternoon, & always all evening. It is not a bit too hard. I am only too glad to be able to do it, only it would mean she would have to do all this herself if I were not here. She not only has this hospital to run, which as you know is no small one, but she is Principal Matron of the 1st Eastern General Hospital which so far is at Trinity Cloisters. There are 231 beds there which are practically all filled – about 150 of them being the wounded & when the other wounded arrive, which we are expecting, they will be first in the tents which have been erected in Trinity Meadow. So you see there is not much sign of the work diminishing, & if I leave now it will be very difficult for matron, yet on the other hand I consider you ought to come first. Please tell me what you think & I will do whatever you think right. I am awfully grateful to you for letting me come away as you did

With kind regards

Yrs very sincerely

Gertrude bates

19th September 1916

Letter from B A Keen to Dunkley

4th (R) Bⁿ Suffolk Regt

D Lines

Halton Camp West

Bucks

My dear Dunkley

You will observe that I am still in Camp with a slightly changed address due to an amalgamation with the 4th Suffolks. I expect my draft to go very shortly now, judging by the average time they spend here after being once warned. Prescott promised me a reprint of his latest paper if they arrived before he left. I said if he went before they came he would leave a list of names with you. If he has done so let me have a copy before I go. I'll give you warning when I leave here so that you could then send the papers to my Harpenden address Welford, St James Road. Would you be good enough to ask Dr Russell if any copies of his presidential address at the B.A. & any of the proceedings of his section are available. If one could be spared I should very much like to have it.

Kindest regards to all

Yours sincerely

B A Keen

26th September 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Russell

Dr E J Russell
14 Fort Crescent
Cliftonville
Margate

Dear Dr Russell

I returned to the Laboratory yesterday and find things are going on quite normally. I understand from Grey that all the experimental grain crops are now carried, the last being those grown on the plots set out by Mr Richards which were got in yesterday.

In making out the salary cheques to day to send to Dr Brown I have drawn Mr Eames' for one month at full pay and two months at half pay. You will remember I mentioned the matter to you before the holidays and I think you approved this course being accepted. I am asking Mrs Eames to give us a cheque for £72 in payment of the rent for the New Farm Buildings for the year now ending. This is I think in accordance with Messrs Keen & Co's suggestion.

I was sorry to learn from Miss Johnson that your second son is just now in delicate health and hope the proposed further stay at Margate will again restore him to health.

I understand you are likely to return here on Thursday. On that evening I have been selected for air-guard duty so I may not be able to stay at the Laboratory later than about 5 o'clock. Our men have been kept on duty till daylight returns, and it is quite a necessary precaution in view of the recent raids. It is fortunate that practically no damage was done in the Harpenden district when the Zeppelins were over here about three weeks ago.

I am, yours faithfully

27th September 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Russell

Dr E J Russell
14 Fort Crescent
Cliftonville
Margate

Dear Dr Russell

You will I am sure be pleased to learn that Sir John Brunner has this morning sent us a cheque for £232 in answer to your appeal to him of July 31st for that sum to provided furniture for the New Library.

I have acknowledged the receipt of the cheque to Sir John's lady Secretary who forwarded it and said a formal receipt shall be sent on as soon as you return. The cheque has been lodged in Barclay's No2 account pending your return.

Yours faithfully

G. T. D.

27th September 1916

Letter from Russell to Dunkley

My dear Dunkley

As everything is going on normally I have decided to stop till Sunday night and shall then return by the next train. I shall turn up at the Lab on Monday morning.

I forget how far the Saturday wages cheques are drawn. You might however see Mr Barnes as to the possibility of drawing the money wanted for the purpose.

It is quite right about Mr Eames cheque.

I hope you had a good holiday & feel all the better for the change - & I also hope you will have a very dull night next Thursday!

Yours etc

E J Russell

Did Miss Johnson tell you that Sir John Brunner feels disposed to help us get the library furniture?

As I am not writing to her please tell her that I do not return till Monday

27th September 1916

Note re W Game

W. Game – Re-examined today at Bedford & passed for general service in the army

28th September 1916

Letter from J Buddin(*Walter Buddin's parent?*) to Dunkley

87 Reighton Road

Up Clapton

N.E.

Dear Mr Dunkley

Walter(*Capt Buddin*) returned to duties Aug 6th after 12 days convalescence (a bit too soon I think) he says he is feeling fit again. We received a letter yesterday dated Sept 14th to say he was off next morning. He wrote a few weeks back to say he expected to be sent about 300 miles south of Cairo by rail, or rather 350 miles by rail & 300 as the crow flies. I take it that he has gone to Aswan, but don't know for certain. He said he was afraid that he would miss Mr Prescott, but hoped he would see him. He has been unsettled about going the last week or two. One day order to

go, the next day cancelled. He is with the same section he went out with. Glad to hear your son is well and back in England. I have sent the address Walter sent yesterday

With Best wishes
Yours sincerely
J Buddin

Address:-

Capt W Buddin
G. C. Sanitary Section 87
R.A.M.C.T.
W.F.F

c/o G.P.O. Egypt

29th September 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Russell

Dr E J Russell
14 Fort Crescent
Cliftonville
MARGATE

Dear Dr Russell

I have just received your letter and note you are deferring your return till Sunday evening. I will arrange with Messrs Barclay & Co. about cash for tomorrow's wages and also for Mrs Eames' cheque to day. The monthly and quarterly salary cheques will also do quite well on Monday morning.

I enclose letters from Mr Martin Sutton re visit by himself and Dr Keeble here next Monday, and also copies of the telegrams sent by me to you and to him and a copy of Miss Johnson's covering letter to Mr Sutton.

Miss Johnson wishes me to tell you she has nothing to report. She is doing library cards.

In reply to your kind enquiry I had a very nice holiday at Teignmouth.

We were released from our Air-guard duties at 2 0'clock this morning and arrived in Harpenden again at 3.30. There was nothing doing I am glad to say, probably owing to the thundery conditions which prevailed at times after 7pm.

William Game was examined by the Medical Board at Bedford on Wednesday last and has this time been passed as fit for "General Service". You will remember that he was rejected last year on account of his small chest measurement. He does not know when he will have to join up.

Grey is not very well again just now, and has in accordance with Dr Leggatt's orders had most of his teeth extracted.

Mr Rupert Guinness's cheque for £62 – 10 – 0 for the quarter just ending has come in this morning, and I have sent it in to Coutts and Co.

Yours faithfully

G.T.D.

29th September 1916

Letter from W Wilson to Dunkley

Harpenden

Dear George

Many thanks for the Treasury Notes. I am pleased to say I am certainly better but the Doctor allows me to go for walks up the Common as far as Mrs Garland's & back but he would not allow me to go to the village but I hope he will soon allow me to do so. I hope you and your wife & sons are quite well, & also that you had a pleasant holiday.

Yours truly

W Wilson

1st October 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Andrew Cunningham

A. Cunningham
6 Brunton Place
Edinburgh

Dear Mr Cunningham

Yes I am sorry to say I had heard from Mr Sawyer of the death of your mother and I tender you my deepest sympathies in your loss.

Thanks for the P.O. for 5/e towards Mr Prescott's present. The total amount collected now stands at £5 – 11 – 0 but I hope it will still increase.

It is strange about the letter you sent here for Mr Clayton. As I mentioned in my last it certainly did not come by the same post as your card and it has not come since.

I heartily commend you for trying to do your little bit with the Sanitary Corps and I hope you will be successful in getting a commission

Yours sincerely

G.J.D.

2nd October 1916

Letter from Dunkley to Sawyer

Dear Mr Sawyer

Dr Russell has asked me to write to you respecting the allowance as he understands you are now engaged at the Lister Institute. He would therefore be glad to know if you have severed your connection with the army, & whether you are still receiving army pay or whether you are now receiving a salary at the Lister which approximates or exceeds your salary before you left here last November. If you would just drop either to Dr Russell or to me stating the present condition of things I shall be much obliged

We had a Zepp very near to us last night. It actually passed from north to south on the east side of Harpⁿ about 11 o'clock but no bombs were dropped in the immediate district so far as we know. Many of us saw the illumination when the thing was hit. Thank goodness that makes four of the Huns Devilish Imps brought down in a month.

Mr Eames was down again on Saturday. He is now stationed at Roehampton with a kite section. He is trying for a commission.

Matters are going on very quietly here. E.J.R. returned from Margate last night where he has been staying with his family. Willie Game was last week passed by the Bedford Medical Board as fit for general service. Last year you will remember he was rejected. F Seabrook who will be 18 next month has enlisted & is waiting to be called up.

Trusting you are enjoying good health

I am yours faithfully

G T Dunkley

P.S. A cheque dated 30th Sept:- is being placed to your credit at Barclays

4th October 1916

Letter from Clutterbuck to Rothamsted

St Giles

Harpenden

Dear Sir

In answer to your kind message with reference to designing a Bookplate for the Library – my charge for designing & engraving the plate would be £10, 10 – 0. (25 artist's proofs included), & if required I shall be pleased to submit specimens.

Yrs faithfully

J. E. Clutterbuck

P.S.

The charge does not include printing the edition

The designers generally arrange a contract

At the best possible rate with the copperplate printers
Who would supply an estimate of so much per 1000

7th October 1916

Note from A Campbell(?) to Dunkley

Halwill Lodge
Beaworthy
Devon

D.D. (*Dear Dunkley?*)

Have got a commission today & expect eventually to be posted to
Salisbury for special duty that I am up for. You might tell Williams please.
How are all yours & people at the lab.

Yours

A. V. C .

7th October 1916

From E.J Russell D.Sc. (Lond.) Director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station

I have much pleasure in stating that William Game has been engaged here during
the past five years as assistant in the Chemical Laboratory, and that his conduct and
work have been entirely satisfactory.

Besides assisting in the usual routine of the laboratory work he has had special
experience in the following.

1. – in taking the Meteorological readings, for which purpose he was sent for a
period to the Meteorological Office, London, to learn the proper official
methods of procedure.
2. . – In the chemical processes involved in the determination of nitrogen and
ammonia, as well as the usual dry matter estimations, sampling etc.
3. . – In weighing and checking, both on laboratory scale and on large field scale.

He is intelligent and industrious, thoroughly reliable and honest in his work, and loyal
to those with whom he is engaged. I have every confidence in recommending him

Director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station

8th October 1916

Letter from Sawyer to Dunkley

Lanham House
Harpenden

Dear Dunkley

Thanks for your letter received last week. I meant to have written to you sooner but have had very little time recently. As you probably know, I have not seen Dr Russell personally. In fact I was merely waiting for his return before calling to see him. For the last month I have been going up daily from here to the Luton, & expect to continue 'til the end of this month, after that – I cannot say at present. Harpenden does seem to have had quite a gay time with the Zepps. Some people seem to have seen the last two when in flames, but I have always been too snug in bed myself!

Kind regards from yours sincerely

G. C. Sawyer

8th October 1916

Letter from W Buddin to Russell

Dear Dr Russell

I almost forget when I wrote you last but I believe it was before we had any orders to move. We were ordered to move all within a few days but the Generals then began to squabble about us and the G.O.C. of our old district tried hard to keep us there although there was another section working alongside us in the same district. He almost succeeded and the result was that after a week's uncertainty we received contradictory orders & messages at the rate of four a day for a few days until we got our final orders with train arrangements. We are now right in the desert about 400 miles south of our old station & 120 from the river valley. Our headquarters are near an oasis but I spend most of my time further out in the desert where all water & food is brought out by camel convoy. We have been looking after over a thousand natives who are a construction gang moving steadily forward. Flies breed in millions in their excreta & we are attempting to reduce the numbers. It is practically impossible to wipe them out. This week owing to a religious feast the natives have refused to work & we have had a few exciting with sticks, preventing them, boarding the trains for home. We are also looking after a few small camps. The train comes in every other day if things are going well but there were two accidents the week we arrived with several deaths & there have been one or two breakdowns since. Food is rather uncertain in its arrival & letters much more so.

At present half my men are unemployed owing to the natives leaving for home but we are expecting more to come in to continue the work. Our present job is not very skilled it consists chiefly in policing but it is quite important as millions of flies bred entirely in native excreta – largely dysenteric – cannot fail to be of great danger to the troops.

The life here is very enjoyable while there is plenty of work to be done to fill in the hours of daylight but when work slackens life is not too pleasant. The flies by day & the mosquitoes by night become much more worrying if one has time to swear at them & is sitting in the tent and being pestered by them. The 20 mile an hour wind – full of sand – outside is quite pleasant in comparison.

I have had only one camel ride at present but expect to have more. A horse is useless here & I cover most of the distances on foot. Have had several journeys on the light cars, as they are usually able to take on extra passengers provided he takes no ‘dead’ weight with him. ‘Live’ weight is useful as it can get off and push. My first trip led me to be always prepared for emergency when travelling in the desert. We expected to make the journey in 1 ½ hours but everything possible seemed to wrong and after 7 hours pushing we were forced to halt for the night several miles short of our destination – and the open desert is cold at night. At times it took twelve of us pushing with the engine going at full strength over half an hour to get out of the sand. Altogether it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and very instructive for future journeys.

The flies are buzzing round too much so I will close

Best wishes to all

Yours sincerely

Walter Buddin

11th October 1916

Letter from Russell to Crawford (re Currant)

D Crawford
Birchwood farm
North Road
Hatfield

Dear Sir

At the request of Mr A B Bruce of the Board of Agriculture, I beg to say that Herbert P Currant’s case is to come before the Hertford Tribunal on Saturday next, 14th, at 4pm.

Mr Bruce tells me that particulars of the case are in your hands, but he wished me to remind you of the fact.

Our Farm Manageress Mrs Eames (the wife of our Farm Manager who is serving in the Royal Flying Corps) and H P Currant will attend at the meeting.

Trusting you will do what you can to help us retain Currant till January next so that he can assist us to get the winter ploughing done and the wheat sown.

I am, yours faithfully

E J R

Director

P.S. If you think it is unnecessary for Currant to be present on Saturday would you kindly let us know & I find we can ill spare him just now

13th October 1916

Letter from Edwin Grey to Dunkley

10 Carlton Road
Seaside
Eastbourne

Dear George

I am glad to say I am feeling much better. I am gradually losing that nasty tired rundown feeling. My foot has been rather bad, much worse than when I shewed it to you. Mrs Honisett is very kind & allows me the means to bathe & poultice it so that it is now getting along & seems to be gradually healing & I am beginning to feel my old self again.

We have had no rain here since I came but very high winds. The sea is beautifully rough & I sit by the beach for hours. I'm not lonely there are about 3000 wounded soldiers here (Conval) & they are allowed out from 2 – 10 so there are many pleased to have a chat with one as they sit on the Parade or bench. I am going over the Summerdown Camp this afternoon one of the young chaps going to take me over it.

Hope you all are well & all well at Lab. Please tell Arthur & Bert I will be writing to them presently. I have made arrangements so that Mrs G can come down. I have sent to her to come on Monday.

I like Eastbourne better than Worthing. It is very pretty I think. I am going to Beachey Head tomorrow. I shall ride as I am afraid to walk it because of my foot. I have just watched the wounded lads (those that are getting fit) out on a short march with their band. They seemed very happy & singing "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag" & smile,smile,smile.

Plenty of fish here but very dear. One chap says he has the best winkles that ever winked.

There is not a glimmer of light on the Pier or anywhere along the Front at night. They were very strict & quite right too.

They say all the cats are starving at Eastbourne because there are no lights.

Kind regards. Hoping alls well with you & yours

Ted

18th October 1916

Letter from J A Prescott to Dunkley

**Societe Sultanieh D'Agriculture
Champs d'Experiment & Laboratoires**

**Bahtim
Cairo, Egypt**

Dear Mr Dunkley

I am just feeling settled down at Bahtim – I have been here just a month but of that time had to take a week's holiday on account of some Moslem festival or other. We had a very nice voyage as far as weather was concerned but had to keep our lifebelts handy all the time. I believe on one occasion at least we were chased by a submarine but all that we were told was that we were in very great danger and that we ought to be prepared. We had some difficulty in getting to France for when we reached Southampton we found that the Channel had been closed for several days and eventually after passing about twenty four hours in the boat we were recalled to London and a special "No. 2" train was run along with the usual P & O express. We crossed the Channel Folkestone – Boulogne.

We are finding the climate very agreeable it is getting cooler almost daily although with the dampness due to the high Nile the cooler weather is not so noticeable. Our flat at Bahtim is not yet in order and we are living at a pension in Cairo. I come to Bahtim early in the morning – half way by tram and the next by the carriage of the station. We are about six miles from the town. I generally stop work at noon and return to town, any reading or writing I can do at the pension. At present I am the only European here. The stockman is away buying animals for the army. The botanist has not yet been appointed but I understand negotiations are being conducted with the U.S, Department of Agriculture to get an American as soon as possible. The farm is in reality a stud farm and we have some fine specimens of horses, cows, buffaloes and donkeys etc. There is a nice garden which we are stocking with flowers and vegetables and an orchard with most of the Egyptian and European fruits. Our nearest shopping centre is Cairo itself although we are near an Arab village of about 4000 inhabitants who live in mud houses. Mud seems to be the prevailing material of construction in the country from mosque and tombs to beehives and cornbins. I have a very good assistant and I shall probably get a second shortly. We have our work cut out for the winter in investigating some of the local foods but I have to make arrangements for a number of visits to the Delta, Upper Egypt and the Fayoum. I have already met several of the scientific workers out here and on the whole there is an excellent feeling among them.

The Labs. are quite respectable and fortunately the Germans who were here before laid in a good stock of apparatus and chemicals. I think we shall get along for a few months at least.

I have not heard of anything of Buddin yet. I wrote to his army address but received no reply and then found out by telephone that he had left Abbassieh. I hear also that the 5th Suffolks are still here but have not heard yet whether Keen has come back. We have seen the Pyramids by daylight and by moonlight – I don't think we were really disappointed for we had already been warned. Certainly it is only at midnight with the full moon that one first realises their magnitude.

We have several excursions yet to make but we have plenty of time yet – remember me to all at the Lab. – will write later as I have time and inclination.

Mrs Prescott wishes to be remembered to Mrs Eames and all the ladies

Kind regards

Yours Sincerely

J.A.Prescott

18th October 1916

Professor Keeble (*Professor at Reading, RHS Director, Professor of Botany Oxford FRS 1913*)
Weyton
St George's Hill
Weybridge

My Dear Keeble

We have got some banks and outbuildings in the Laboratory grounds that we want to transform from their present high unattractive state. Would you be good enough to give us the benefit of your advice as to some scheme of planting shrubs, etc. – something permanent that would not require continuous labour; we would very greatly appreciate your advice and help. At present the effect is that of a factory yard, but with our good soil and nice atmosphere we ought to be able to get something very superior.

Yours very truly

19th October 1916

Letter from Edwin Grey to Dunkley

10 Carlton Road
Seaside
Eastbourne

Dear George

Many thanks for letter. We have decided to stay over Sunday next. That will be one Sunday here for Mrs G. The only thing is. I hope they will not think me too grasping. I had intended coming back on Saturday & I had asked Arthur to leave the Keys & I would see to the collar ("*sun collars*" on the *sunshine Stokes-Campbell ball*) sat. night 7 do the duties at gauges Sunday. So will you please tell

Arthur & I'm Mr Pearce will put in the collar for Sat night & Sunday night. & I should also be much obliged if for me you thank Miss Wilson for her kind offer & I am glad to avail myself of it. I should be Content then only it's troubling you so much. I could not get back until Monday afternoon. I am glad to say I am getting on well gradually healing up as I get stronger. The discharge gets less and less. I really for the 1st two or three days hardly knew what to do. I began to get better bodily & my foot got worse & discharged very much. I was afraid I should have to see a Dr. but however its going along well now & I am feeling my old self again. It was a glorious day Monday. Mrs G. got down alright. Yesterday afternoon & night it poured with rain that's the first since I've been here. Today is beautiful again the Band plays on the Parade from 11.30 to 1 & in the Devonshire park afternoon. Tonight we are going to see ("Sealed Orders") (from Drury Lane) at Devonshire park Theatre). We are sorry to hear that George Bath's brother Lieut Reg Bath is missing he has only been out a little time. But Mrs Grey says she thinks she has told you I don't think I can say more now. We feel quite at home here not at all strange because our rooms are with Miss Davies' sister (Mrs Honisett) I think you have met her at Harpenden.

If I am wanted you will let me know. Hope you all are well. Kind regards to all at Lab. You will see that the Met things for sat. night etc. are all right.

Very kindest regards
& many thanks for Kindness

Yours truly

Ted

Letter from Dunkley to C. Lewin 20th October 1916

C.J.Lewin
Radstock
Somerset

Dear Mr Lewin

In overhauling the cupboards a day or two ago in Dr Brenchley's room, the one in which your late son Kenneth worked in the latter part of the time he was here we came across a small microscope in a case, and a pair of dissecting knives also in a case, which belonged to him, and I am sending them on to you by parcel post (registered) this day. Trusting they will reach you safely.

I am yours faithfully

G.J.D.

Card from C Lewin to Dunkley 22nd October 1916

Dear Mr Dunkley

The microscope and the knife-case reached me quite safely, & I am much obliged to you for kindly forwarding them. I hope you are keeping well.

Yours sincerely

Charles J Lewin

October 1916

Draft Letter from Dunkley to Davis

Letter from W A Davis recd Sept 12/16 – while I was on holiday.

Retnd to Lab 26th Sept_ & have been busy since making up the a/cs for the year.

What a change in your mode of life & work compared with what had been habitual while at the lab here. Here quiet humdrum life now strenuous & full of adventures you are indeed getting your share of “active service” more healthy & eventful life but danger of taking too much out of yourself especially as you have hardly got acclimatised as yet.

You did a small thing to get the motor car in such a short time.

George in England doing ballistics at Woolwich. May stay some time.

Sawyer

Dicyandiamide

Capt Keen home last week – still at Tring

Saw a good photo Weir had sent of himself to Mrs Eames.

Trying for a commission

Eames still at R. T. C. – hoping to get a commission.

Prescott left us towards the end of August & I had a card from his father saying that he had arrived at Port Said. Buddin is in Egypt I believe so there is a chance that they may meet.

Mrs Russell & family are at Margate on a/c of the health of second boy John. He has shown signs of tubercular trouble & he is down there for treatment.

Dr R is here & is going down there for occasional week-ends

October 1916

Letter from A V Campbell to Dunkley

A V Campbell, 2 Lt ASC

Knapp House, Pewsey, Wilts

Dear Dunkley

I have shifted my quarters as you will see to the Vale of Pewsey & its white horse. The particular point I wanted to know was if you knew where Mr Eames was stationed in the R.F.C. There is a big RFC place here & I thought today I saw Eames' back view. If he is at Upavon or on the plain will you let me know as I

should like to see him. How is Mrs Dunkley & all your family I expect George is one of the Red Cap swells by now It would appear that his calibrating for anti aircraft guns had come off all right. I expect he had a hand in working out the shell flights didn't he? Have you heard anything of Bob Sawyer or anybody else lately. How are all the people generally. I should be so pleased if you could find time to drop me a line to say that everybody is safe so far. I am having a sort of holiday in Wilts. Officially it is supposed to be a very difficult County but I have not had to scratch my head yet. How is old Uncle & Ted & Helen & everybody.

Where is Mr Daish now?

Many regards to all

Yours A.V.C.

9th November 1916

Letter from Appleyard to Dunkley

Ministry of Munitions of War

H.M.Factory

Alexandra Dock

King's Lynn

Dear Dunkley

I should be glad if you could spare me copies of Mr Davis's papers on sugar estimation in various plant materials. I have spoken to Mr Sawyer about this and he tells me that he has not received all the copies to which he was entitled. Mr Davis's work bears very closely on the work which Mr Sawyer is doing here. I will mention the matter to Dr Russell to day, and perhaps when he returns he will permit of your sending them

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

A. Appleyard

14th November 1916

Dunkley to Appleyard, Draft letter

Dear Mr Appleyard

I have your letter of the 9th & have waited till today to discuss the matter with Dr Russell. As to Mr Sawyer not yet having received all the reprints to which he is entitled I would say that the author's copies have always been handed over & if he has not had them Mr Davis must have done so. You may know that the number of reprints of some of these papers was cut down to a minimum with the result that before we can bind up Vols 9 & 10 of the Rothamsted Memoirs some at least of the papers will have to be reprinted at some considerable expense.

Now as to copies for yourself I presume you had copies of papers published while you were here. If not & you will let me know which of them you want I will see if you have copies to spare.

Since you left in Feb last the following papers have been published by Mr Davis & his co-workers

(Dunkley then list papers 206, 207, 208, 210, 212, 213, 214, 221, 224) He doubts that a copy of 210 can be spared

20th November 1916

Letter from A Bowden to Dunkley

3 Coleswood Road
Harpenden
Herts

Dear Mr Dunkley

Many thanks for your note & kind remarks in respect of Athelstan. Also & in reference to P.O. which I will attend to this afternoon.

Yours sincerely

A. Bowden

21st November 1916

Letter from Bowden to Dunkley

1st Res: Battⁿ Herts Regt
Halton Camp, Wendover

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines to thank you very very much for your kindness re the addition to my banking account. Have been having some rather rough weather here lately, combined with plenty of mud. I went down to Tring Parish Church the other Sunday evening & the Rector of Hatfield (who is appointed Bishop of Exeter preached to a crowded congregation.

I went for a stroll the other evening with your brother Horace. He appears to have rather a bad arm following vaccination.

Hoping you are fit & thanking you once again

I remain

Yours sincerely

Athel H Bowden

22nd November 1916

Letter from W Buddin to Dunkley

E.E.F.

My Dear Dunkley

Thanks very much for your letter with all the news. I have not seen Prescott yet and there is not the slightest chance while I am down here right in the

middle of the desert, but I have not heard from him either. I had a note from him saying that he has arrived at Cairo. I was very busy at the time as I had just arrived here and wrote a short note regretting I had just missed him. Am writing tonight & hope the letter will reach him & I shall get a bit of news.

I had a busy month after I came out of hospital getting things straight & picking up the back threads & new developments. I was just feeling properly fit again myself & had got again in touch with everything in the old district when we were transferred. Up to the present I have been very busy down here. Now the small camps are getting even smaller. Plans seem very mysterious & we are going to get very little to do. Plenty of time is still wasted as I travel a lot on a light railway & the & uncertainty of everything connected with the Gypsy driver & engine men that every time I travel I have to sit on the train usually three hours waiting for the unexpected & unannounced start. If it were not for the heat & the flies one could read but as it is the waiting serves only to fill in time.

We have reached that stage now when the authorities really could get on without us but we shall probably stay here until news gets through that we are wanted more urgently in the command.

I am still thoroughly enjoying it & am quite happy but a little work can never be ... so satisfactorily as a lot (provided there is not a lot too much) & I do not look forward with pleasure to having only a little to do.

Very glad you have got George at home again. Was very sorry to hear about John Russell. Davis is welcome to his life in India. The climate would not suit me. Fever at this time of the year some of the days down here are too hot for me although in the morning when I sit on the train for an hour from 4.0 to 5.0 & then travel on an open track from 5.0 to 7.0 I can tell you it is curiously comparatively bitterly cold.

We received various Army orders about the wearing of shoes, shorts, soft hats etc. but here we continue to dispense with a tie & have our shirts open at the neck while we continue to wear shorts which are beginning to have openings in rather unusual places. Until last week we had barbed wire round the camp & it served more like a home. The garden wall was quite happily represented by the barbed wire. Now we are quite & I look out of the door by day to see nothing between me & desert & by night to look vainly for a light. The dogs & jackals are beginning to come around & last night had 40lbs of meat off a side of beef which had come in on the train after dark & had been left without a guard to be cut up for rations this morning. I usually sleep peacefully through their howling & barking. In this particular camp where I am writing mosquitoes are the plague. Higher up the line it is flies bred on native --- which we are unable under the conditions to keep absolutely in hand. Such are our happy conditions that in spite of Army discipline ... there is no more difference between officers & some of its privates here than in old

civil life & I spend an occasional lonely & dull half hour playing German whist with my clerk. Unfortunately as with some Lab boys a more definite line has to be drawn with some of the privates.

As most letters seem to take over three weeks from here I had better ... wish you & all a Happy Xmas & a brighter New Year

Yours

Walter Buddin

Capt.

25th November 1916

Letter from Game to Dunkley

Hut No: R.3

31775 Pte W.C.Game

No: 6 Company

3rd Batt. Beds Reg

Landguard Camp

Felixstowe

Suffolk

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines to let you know I am still alive. Well as you will see by address we are a nice way from home. We stayed at Bedford the night and next morn we were sent to Felixstowe Camp, not much of a place either, travelling about 6 hours. We are placed in huts along the sea front so we get a nice sea breeze. Well the first day we were doing nothing else but turning all the while first right and then left. I got just about sick of it the first day, but I do not suppose it is any good feeling like that. Being such a long way from home I do not suppose we shall see home just yet, according to what the chaps say we shall not get leave under thirteen weeks, so it looks as if we shall see Christmas down here. It's a fine sight down here of a night time, with about a dozen or more large searchlights around us.

Well I think that will be all for present.

Remember me to all at the Lab.

I remain, Yours sincerely

W. C. Game

4th December 1916

Letter from A Appleyard to Dunkley

Ministry of Munitions of War
H. M. Factory
Alexandra Dock
King's Lynn

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for your interesting letter. I have only just returned from London where I have been working for 10 days. Now I should be glad if you could see your way to let me have a copy of the list of papers which have been published since I left. The Rothamsted work on sugars is exceedingly important in connection with the subject we are studying here & therefore if you could let me have them I'm sure they would be helpful. I intend to discuss the matter with Mr Sawyer but of course his papers & books are not here. I have a certain no. of reprints which are stored in the sample house. If you could send me a copy of each of the papers published since I left I will arrange to use Sawyer's copies of the others.

Our paper on "Soil Conditions etc." has not received much attention yet. I cannot neglect this work here but I hope at Xmas to get an opportunity of going into it. We are still going hammer & tongs to get the stuff out. We are badly handicapped at present by white maize not been available. Yellow is not a good raw material for us & its causing endless worry & work for less output.

Mr Sawyer is settling down alright. I don't see very much of him, or haven't done up to the present. I saw Mac (*MacLennan?*) in town. What's happened to H.B. Haven't heard a word for a long time

Kind regards

Yrs sincerely

A Appleyard

10th December 1916

Letter from G Lawrence to Russell

(2243) Pte G Lawrence
Killing Hall
Harrogate
Yorks

Sir

Dr Russell

Just a few lines at last as no doubt (you thought me lost) but we have under gone some strict training off late as I wrote Mr Dunkley that I returned from base with my officer which is a very good gentleman. As I have been found to have what the call flat toes which stops me from doing a lot of marching but I have had to go on several courses which I have passed out very well. I have just been on Course off At York an the rules were for me to get 6. 7. or 8 marks if you get through well so I had

to get 192 which I managed in 3 weeks. So I have returned at the C.O, was very pleased so I suppose I shall have to retain my stripes again as I keep getting put in charge off a squad as I have got such a fair word off command they say. Well Sir I have not had any leave now since I was with you in July but there seems such a lot off trouble in getting a pass this Xmas as I should like to Visit you again but I hope all is well as there is a great change always taking place. We have sent two other draughts since the one I went out with. We sent a draught down to the Line which is at Tring. Where I think Capt Daish is at present. I hope Athell Bowden is fairly well as I have not heard lately. I have four other brothers out at the front and my youngest Brother is at Tring as he retains the age of 18 years this coming. So I suppose he will find his way out there eventually. I hope some of them have the Luck to return. Well Sir we shall soon have another Xmas on to us which will make the third one I have at War. I must close with my best Congratulations trusting I may meet soon you again soon. I will close with Kindest Regards I still remain your servant

G Lawrence

20th December 1916

Letter from Sawyer to Dunkley

H.M. Factory
Alexandra Dock
Kings Lynn

Dear Dunkley

Many thanks for opening & forwarding the telegram. As you say, it would have been too late for me to do anything in the matter - & in any case I could not have left here had I known sooner. The wire was from my sister who has just returned from India after a five year's absence from this country: it is unfortunate that there was no one to meet her especially as she has never seen the house in Bedford – however I don't suppose she would get lost on that last fifty miles!

I am fortunate to get a few days off for Xmas & am hoping to leave here for Bedford within the hour: so please excuse hasty note

With kind regards & all seasonable wishes

Believe me

Yrs sincerely

G C Sawyer

20th December 1916

Letter from W C Game to Dunkley

31775 Hut R. 3
6th Company
3rd Batt Beds Reg
Landguard Camp
Felixstowe
Suffolk

Dear Mr Dunkley

Just a few lines to say I received your most welcome letter quite safe. I am just getting used to this life, but still think of the old saying (there is no place like home). I hope you are keeping well and hope Mr Richards is better. I have had a bad throat and chest, cold I expect but feel better now. My vaccination is just playing up lovely. I have arm twice as big as it should be, and that painful, I feel very bad at times with it. They are having a good clear out down here, all the N.C.Os. are to be ready next week for the front, and draughts go from here pretty often, a fresh lot of N.C.Os. are coming from Bedford those that have been wounded.

I am very sorry to hear about Mr W Wilson, and hope he is getting better. Please remember me to Dr Russell and all at the Lab.

I am
Yours sincerely
W. C. Game

29th December 1916

Letter from Brenchley to Dunkley

Dear Mr Dunkley

Things might be worse! I've had another letter to say there is no desperate hurry for my report & that I am not to break my holiday. However, I've done Richmond, go to Regent's Park next Tuesday & shall leave the rest till the 8th & 9th so don't expect me back quite so early.

Tell Mr Richards that soil samples are going to be taken, so his turn may come!

All goes well – how is it with you?
With all good New Year wishes
Yours sincerely
Winifred E. Brenchley

31st December 1916

**Letter from E H Richards to Dunkley
Somersby**

Dear Dunkley

Do you think you had better write to Dr Russell about our visitor yesterday? It would, in my opinion, be disastrous if S were to come to the lab. again. If he writes to Dr Russell who has not seen him and is worried with many things – he may easily say “yes by all means”. It would be well if Russell saw him first at any rate.

I have not yet recovered from yesterday yet. Most distressing.

Yours sincerely

E. H. Richards

December 1916

Letter from Ted Grey to Dunkley

Dear George

Miss Wilson called this morning & said she would call at Lab for Charts. I had these two at home so I send them along. The White would be better thicker paper. I think the size is about right. I was in bed so did not see her. I have a terrible cold. I think it's the Flue. I hope I shall be able to keep up.

Mr Richards asked me to let him know when his small plots would be thrashed. When we left on Saturday, they were going to move the machines & they will thrash the Bag most convenient. It may be the one where Mr Richards plots are on the top or it may be the other that's all I can say, as I came home at once & got to bed as soon as I could. Whichever bag they begin it will be about 7.30am tomorrow Monday.

The two Bushel samples of wheat are ready 3 & 10. I don't know if they are to stay here or what. Should be glad to get them out of the way. BK top portion comes out terrible for 3 we had just enough for the large sample and our own.

You will find Sat & Sundays collars. Mr Pearce went for me Friday night so he has that one.

One thing I ought to mention is that when theres a white hoar frost I always get up to the Sun Register & clean the Ball with soft rag or handkerchief. The Sun will not burn until this is done its no use to do it too early because the frost will only form on again so I always go about 8.30 or 9 before I come in the Lab. I expect it will have to do as Miss Underwood or Miss Wilson would not be able to place the heavy iron ladder I'm afraid. The Harvest book we do not want now. Arthur enters in small book until the thrashings over. I think this is all the ramble this time

Ted
