

*The last
but one*

Pte. P. H. Huggins 2701.
D. Co. 1st Bers. Regt.
British Expeditionary Force

My dearest Mum.

Thank you very much indeed
for the lovely parcel & letters which arrived
quite safely today. It is so good of you all and
I can't tell you how grateful I am and how
I appreciate all your kindness. I read the
letters over again. I also received
Grandad's lovely parcel and a letter from
her Auntie and from Mr Harden of Stow.

The Christmas pudding we shall dispose of
tomorrow if we are here. I'm afraid there are
no means of boiling or toasting it as French
fireplaces, even if we had one, do are all of an
urn shape & entirely closed in. But you
need have no fear for our digestions for
they must be like an ostrich now considering
what we have had best. So rest assured
dear Mum that although cold the pudding

will be appreciated. Thank each one for
the gifts which were enclosed for me, and
ask them to excuse me if I fail to acknowledge
each one, but I am truly very grateful to
each one, & thank Sara for her letter which
I was very pleased to receive.

Well Mum dear we have just had 2
days "standing fast" which means that you
must be absolutely ready at any moment
for a forced march to the trenches. The
lions have not yet quite expired. But
reports have it that the lines are being
held & in parts advances are being made &
the probability is, we shall not be wanted this
time. Yes dear Mum. I know you all
must miss me & no doubt can to some
extent realize what my feelings are.
for I cannot express them. But I console
myself with the thought that I was guided

By a High Hand when taking the step
which placed me here, where my duty
lies, and, believe me Mother, where I
am proud to be, and only hope, by the
Grace of God, to acquit myself honour-
ably and be permitted to return to all
the dear ones in safety.

It seems that Xmas will be spent
by us out here. so we will make the best
of it and remember you all in thoughts
& prayers. I have already asked dear
Dunn that you will spend as happy a
Xmas as possible & I will do the same.
Am glad to think Mr & Mrs Daniels are
so interested. I sent them a card a day or
two ago. & intend writing them. but both
paper & time are scarce. I had to borrow this
piece.

I'm glad to hear business is going on well
and hope Ethel's has started well too

was pleased indeed with her letter.

I haven't seen any of the papers that were sent out but things go a long way round before they reach us.

Well, Mother dear, your loving wishes & prayers are treasured in my heart and I long for the day when this terrible conflict will be ended. You consider war a terrible thing but imagination cannot reach far enough for the horrors of warfare that can be seen on the battle-field are indescribable and I pray that this may be the last war that will ever be. Now must say Goodbye Mum dear & God bless you & all.

Thanking you & each one again with best love & all from your loving son

Percy

"I know ⁱⁿ whom I have believed & am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."