



# 'At last fighting is over'

Local History and Wilson  
Letters Transcription Folder

Cheltenham  
Remembers.



Cheltenham  
*Local History Society*

VISIT  SOLDIERS OF  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE



CHELTENHAM  
LADIES'  
COLLEGE



## Contents

Introduction	pages 4-5
1955.550.77.18.62 – Letter dated 11 November 1918	pages 6-9
1995.550.32 – Page 419 of My Life	pages 10-13
1995.550.77.22 – Letter dated 22 October 1914	pages 14-15
1995.550.78.1 Undated Postcard	pages 16-17
1995.550.77 – Letter dated 22 April 1917	pages 18-23
1995.550.77 – Letter dated 13 June 1917	pages 24-25
1995.550.77 – Letter dated 20 March 1916	page 26-29
1995.550.77 – Letter dated 15 August 1916	pages 30-33
1995.550.77 – Letter dated 18 November 1916	pages 34-35
1995.550.77 – Letter dated 14 May 1917	pages 36-39
1995.550.77.18.49 – Letter dated 8 August 1918	pages 40-47
1995.550.77 – Letter dated 15 October 1911	pages 48-51
2016.1.19 – Undated envelope	pages 52-23
2010.35 – The last letter, March 1912	pages 54-59
14.412 – Envelope dated August 1914	pages 60-61
13.188 – Letter dated 29 January 1915	pages 62-63
First Accessions Register	pages 54-67
1955.550.77 – Letter dated 16 October 1916	pages 68-70

## Introduction

'At last fighting is over': The end of the First World War in Cheltenham.

The First World War ended 100 years ago this year. This new exhibition commemorates Cheltenham's first war memorial: the painting *A Relieved Platoon* by Fred Roe of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Gloucestershire Regiment.

The exhibition offers the first opportunity to see the painting at the museum for many years. The art gallery commissioned the painting in 1920 to acknowledge the contribution that Cheltonians made in the war. The local paper commended the art gallery for 'setting an example'. Also on view will be rarely seen items from the collections, as well as items on loan from Cheltenham Ladies College, The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, and the Wilson Family showing life in the final months of the First World War.

The display is complemented by a web-based exhibition showing the Wilson Family diaries and letters including daily notes from Bernard Wilson serving in France to his family back in Cheltenham. These have been newly transcribed for the project.

The exhibition contains a number of letters to and from the Wilson Family during the war. These letters have been transcribed and typed up by staff and volunteers at the museum and compiled in this folder for ease of reading.

**Acknowledgements:** The Wilson would like to thank the Wilson family for allowing their archive to be made available, the volunteers for their hard work and dedication in transcribing the letters and diaries, and helping mount the display in the Open Archive. We would also like to thank Neela Mann and the Cheltenham Local History Society for their inspiration in mounting the exhibition, Cheltenham Ladies College and the Soldiers of Gloucester Museum. Further acknowledgements can be found on the introductory label.

To find out more about the collections held by the museum contact:

Collections Team, The Wilson, Clarence Street,  
Cheltenham GL50 3JT **Tel:** 01242 237431

**Email:** [collections@cheltenhamtrust.org.uk](mailto:collections@cheltenhamtrust.org.uk)

**Visit our website:**

<http://www.cheltenhammuseum.org.uk/>

## Letter from E. Bernard Wilson

Museum number 1995.550.77.62

11 of November 1918

Front page

My dear old Mother  
At last fighting is over - as at  
11 AM hostilities ceased - well I am safe  
& sound - God has brought me safely  
thru' it all & I am very thankful  
We are now in a village called  
Noyelle, just west on Airtowning South  
of Tournai - where we had the Coz  
attack on the 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. We searched  
the position we attacked & found a  
grave with four of our Men - But  
with no names - So we excavated  
them & gave them a proper Military  
funeral this afternoon - Sorry to  
say my officer who was wounded  
has died of wounds - We are  
billeted in the Curies house, which  
is quite nice & comfortable except  
that there is not a single pane  
of glass left in the whole house

My dear old Mother

11 Nov 18

At last fighting is over – as at  
11 AM hostilities ceased - well I am safe  
& sound – God has brought me safely  
thro' it all & I am very thankful

We are now in a village called  
Noyelle, just west on Antoing south  
Of Tournai – where we had the Coy  
attack on the 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. we searched  
the position we attacked & found a  
grave with four of our men – But  
with no names – So we excavated  
them & gave them a proper military  
funeral this afternoon – Sorry to  
say my officer who was wounded  
has died of wounds- we are  
billeted in the Curées house, which  
is quite nice & comfortable except  
that there is not a single pane  
of glass left in the whole house *[End of page]*

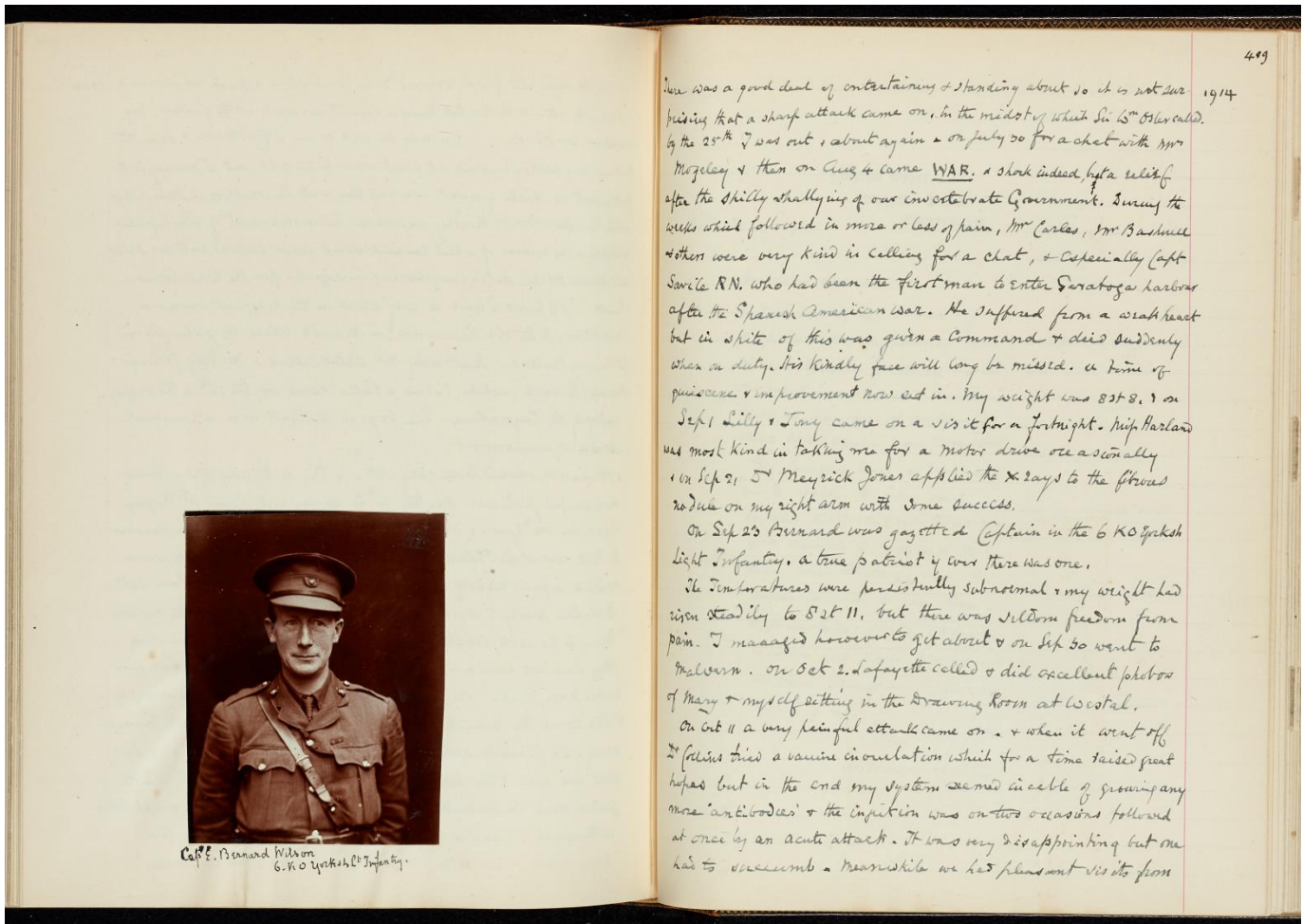
**Museum number 1995.550.77.62 continued****Back page**

We were to have had a thanksgiving  
service this afternoon only it started  
to rain - we are to have it tomorrow  
morning - At present we are  
clearing up the ruins, which  
have fallen across the street - and  
in general trying to clear up some  
of the awful chaos in the village.  
The civilians poor wretched people  
are coming back to their wretched  
homes - The men are all very  
delighted the war is over - we have  
already had a return to make of  
what officers have jobs waiting for  
them at home - So the first step  
for demobilization has been taken  
Just received your 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. many  
thanks - so glad the gas stove is  
a success - Thank God its all over -  
Your best love  
Bernard.

we were to have had a thanksgiving service this afternoon only it started to rain – we are to have it tomorrow morning – At present we are clearing up the ruins, which have fallen across the street – And in general trying to clear up some of the awful chaos in the village

The civilians poor wretched people are coming back to their wrecked homes – Our men are all very delighted the war is over – We have already had a return to make of what officers have jobs waiting for them at home – So the first step for demobilization has been taken

Just received yours 6<sup>th</sup> Nov; Many thanks – So glad the gas stove is a success – Thank god its all over – Your most loving son Bernard.



Capt. E. Bernard Wilson  
6th KO Yorksh Lt Infantry.

**Book: *My Life 1889-1914* by E T Wilson**

**Museum number 1995.550.35 (b)**

**Year 1914, Page 419 only**

*[On the left, normally blank, page there is a photo of the eldest son of Dr Edward Thomas Wilson Bernard with a caption that reads]:*

**'Cap E. Bernard Wilson 6 KO Yorksh Lt Infantry'<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

There was a good deal of entertaining and standing about so it is not sur-

prising that a sharp attack came on, in the midst of which Sir W<sup>m</sup> Osler called.

by the 25<sup>th</sup> I was out & about again & on July 30 for a chat with Mrs

Mosley & then on Aug 4 came WAR. a shock indeed, but a relief

after the shilly-shallying of our invertebrate Government. During the

weeks which followed in more or less of pain, Mr Carles, Mr Bushnell

& others were very kind in calling for a chat, & especially Capt

Savile RN. who had been the first man to enter Saratoga harbour

after the Spanish American War. He suffered from a weak heart

but in spite of this was given a Command & died suddenly

when on duty. His kindly face will long be missed. A time of

quiescence & improvement set in. my weight was 8st 8.  
– on

Sep 1 Lilly & Tony came on a visit for a fortnight. Miss  
Harland

was most kind in taking me for a motor drive  
occasionally.

& on Sep 21 Dr Meyrick Jones applied the x rays to  
fibrous

nodule on my right arm with some success.

On Sep 23 Bernard was gazetted Captain in the 6 KO  
Yorksh

Light Infantry, a true patriot if ever there was one.

The Temperatures were persistently subnormal & my  
weight had

risen steadily to 8st 11, but there was seldom freedom  
from

pain. I managed however to get about & on Sep 30  
went to

Malvern. On Oct 2 Lafayette called & did excellent  
photos

Of Mary & myself sitting in the Drawing Room at Westal.

On Oct 11 a very painful attack came on & when it went off

Dr Collins tried a vaccine inoculation which for a time raised great

hopes but in the end my system seemed incable [*sic*] of growing

any more 'antibodies' & the injection was on two occasions followed

at once by acute attack. It was very disappointing but one

had to succumb. Meanwhile we had pleasant visits from  
*[End of page]*

## Letter from E. Bernard Wilson

Museum Number 1995.550.77.22

11 October 1914

One page only

11 Oct 14  
 6<sup>th</sup> K.O.-Y.-d.-1  
 Aldershot

My very dear old Bob  
 Thank you ever so much for the  
 shirts our men were really grateful  
 for them - the poor fellows are (some of  
 them) infected with vermin & don't like  
 it! We can do with quite a lot more  
 for my company! I am glad to say I am  
 feeling much more hopeful & don't  
 find the work quite so difficult -  
 I am also getting more accustomed to  
 giving orders & instructions to 250 men  
 in a loud voice about matter - I have  
 only learned the day before - It's rather  
 trying as there are also four Subalterns  
 who know as much as I do & are not  
 in such an exalted position - How are you  
 ah & how is the school - We go to Whitley  
 near Godalming on 15 Nov. Best love  
 dear old pal - Yours Bernard.

11 Oct 14

6<sup>th</sup> K. O. Y. L. I

My very dear old Bib

Aldershot

Thank you ever so much for the shirts our men were really grateful for them - The poor beggars are ( some of them ) infected with vermin & don't like it! We can do with quite a lot more for my company! I am glad to say I am feeling much more hopeful & don't find the drill quite so difficult.

I am also getting more accustomed to giving orders & instructions to 250 men in a loud voice about matters I have only learned the day before - Its rather trying as there are also four Subalterns who know as much as I do & are not in such an exalted position - How are you all & how is the school - we go to Whitley near Godalming on 15 Nov. Best love dear old girl - Yours Bernard.

## Postcard to Mrs Wilson

Museum number 1995.550.78.1

20 July 1917

So delighted at y- news  
that B is L.Colonel- how  
Splendid. I'm writing him  
One of our parents, a General  
was sitting in his room & a bomb  
fell into it & blew him into  
the road! However he had  
speech & memory to ask a  
passing lorry to take him to  
his billet So I hope he is alright

'So delighted at y-r news  
that B is L.Colonel now  
splendid. I am writing him  
One of our parents, a General  
was sitting in his room & a bomb  
fell into it & blew him into  
the road! However he had  
speech & memory to ask a  
passing lorry to take him to  
his billet So I hope he is alright'



**Letter from E Bernard Wilson****Museum number 1995.550.77.****22 April 1917****Front page**

22 Ap: 17.

ROYAL STATION HOTEL,  
HULL.

My very dear old Dad

It was very sad leaving  
you yesterday & you were so  
kind & strong. I know it was  
a trying time for us both.  
But it made it so very sad  
because you are so very weak  
& frail - we both I know  
realize, that we may not  
see each other again in  
this life - However - I have  
a very plain & straight.

22 Ap: 17

Royal Station Hotel

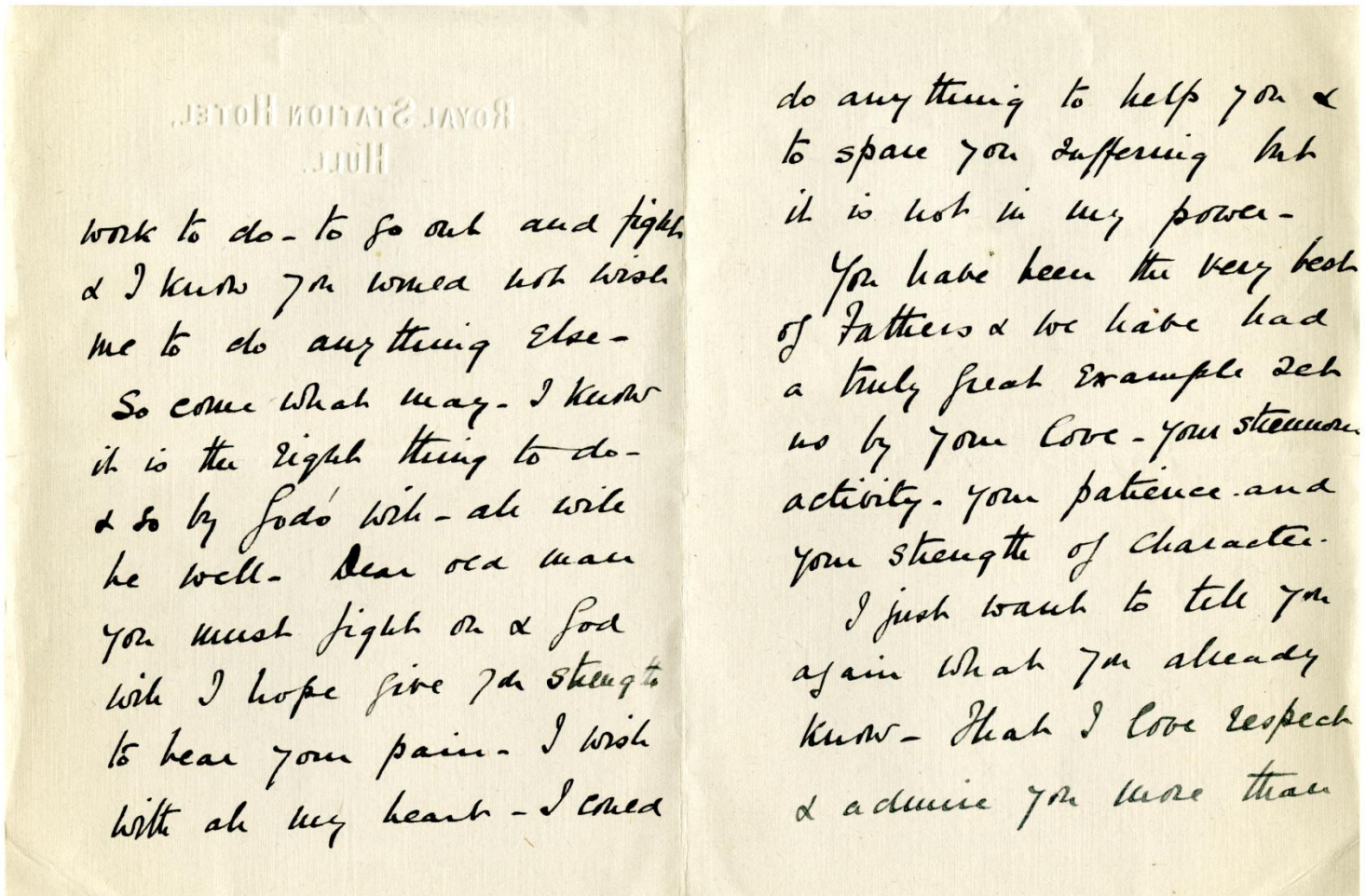
Hull

My very dear old Dad

It was very sad leaving  
you yesterday & you were so  
brave & strong. I know it was  
a trying time for us both.

But it made it so very sad  
because you are so very weak  
& frail – we both I know  
realize, that we may not  
see each other again in  
this life. However, I have  
a very plain & straight *[End of page]*

**Museum number 1995.550.77. continued,  
Middle pages**



work to do – to go out and fight  
& I know you would not wish  
me to do anything else.  
So come what may, I know  
it is the right thing to do –

& by Gods will – all will  
be well. Dear old man  
you must fight on & God  
will I hope give you strength  
to bear your pain. I wish  
with all my heart I could  
do anything to help you &  
to spare you suffering but  
it is not in my power.

You have been the very best  
of Fathers & we have had  
a truly great example set  
us by your love – your strenuous  
activity, your patience and  
your strength of character.

I just want to tell you  
again what you already  
know – that I love respect  
& admire you more than *[End of page]*

Museum number 1995.550.77.continued,

Back page

any one - I have not met  
myself or heard of - Because  
I know you & your innermost  
thoughts.

Lastly - dear old man - I do  
thank you from the bottom of  
my heart for being such a  
kind & father to me & giving  
me such an example & start  
in life - May God always be  
with you & you with Him -  
Your most loving son

Bernard.

anyone I have ever met  
myself or heard of. Because  
I know you & your inmost  
thoughts.

Lastly, dear old man, I do  
thank you from the bottom of  
my heart for being such a  
Friend & Father to me & giving  
me such an example & start  
in life. May God always be  
with you & you with Him.

Your most loving son

Bernard.

## Letter from E Bernard Wilson

Museum Number 1995.550.77.

13 June 1917

One page only

136 June 13<sup>th</sup> Last night after dinner I went a  
faunt with the Major round the lower part of the  
village near the Boche lines to a part you can't go  
to by day because it is under observation. We went  
just as the light began to fail & explored the gardens  
& some of the cellars in which the Boche lived for  
2 years. They had broken up most things before they  
left. There was a grand piano smashed to atoms in  
one cellar. They were most elaborate places &  
they must have been very comfortable there till we  
forced them to run & leave it all. As we got  
back the Germans began to shell the hill opposite  
us across the valley. Then our S.O.S. signal went  
up & all our guns started & there was absolute hell  
let loose for about half an hour. It was a sight.  
The Boche sent up all kinds of rockets & the place looked  
as if it were on fire. It was a wonderful sight to  
watch but one wondered that anyone could live  
in it at all both sides firing as hard as possible.

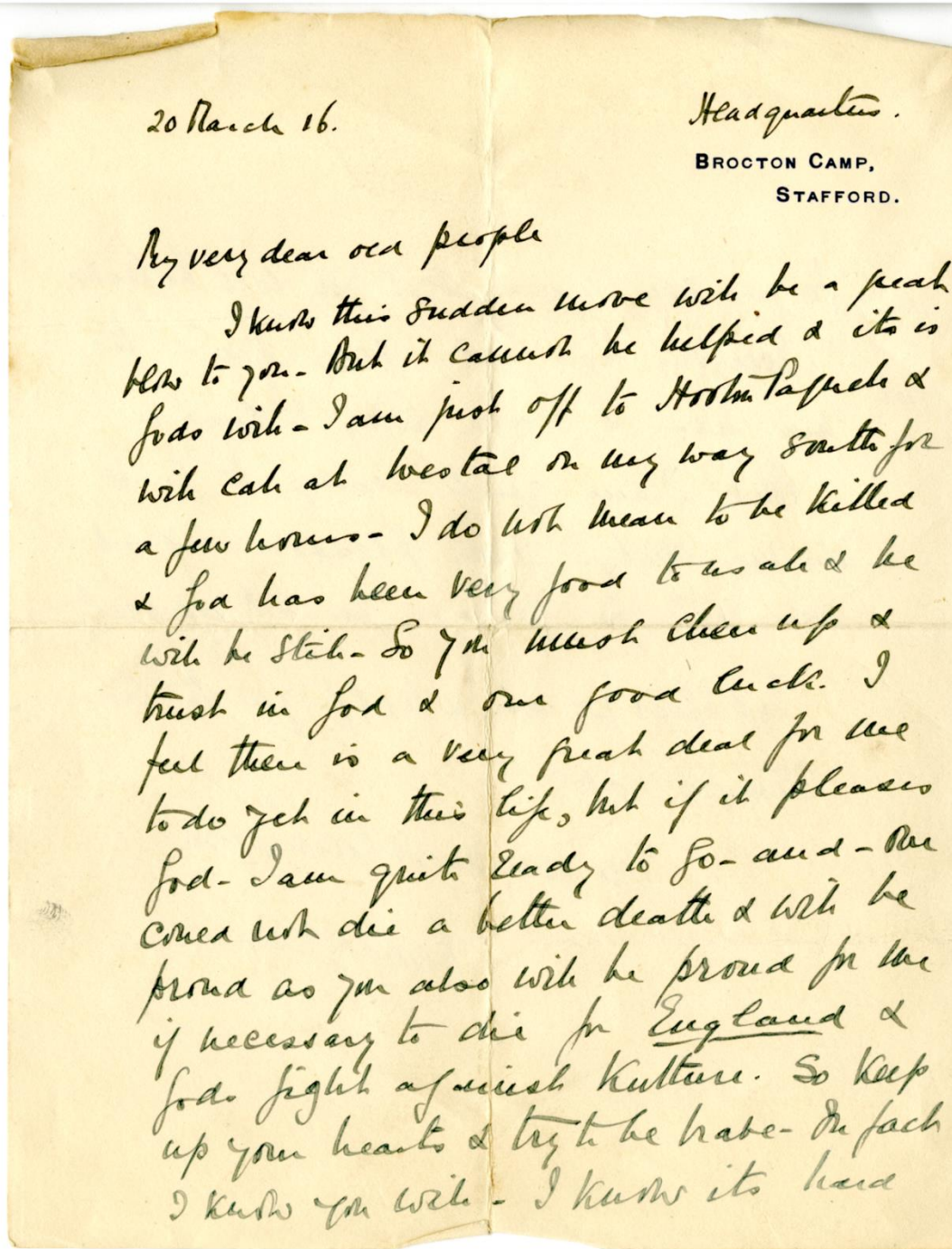
136 June 13 Last night after dinner I went a jaunt with the Major round the lower part of the village nearer the Bosch lines to a part you can't go to by day because it is under observation. We went first as the light began to fail & explored the gardens & some of the cellars in which the Bosch lived for 2 years. They had broken up most things before they left. There was a grand piano smashed to atoms in one cellar. They were most elaborate places & they must have been very comfortable there till we forced them to run & leave it all. As we got back the Germans began to shell the hill opposite us across the valley. Then our S.O.S. signals went up & all our guns started & there was absolute Hell let loose for about half an hour. It was a sight. The Bosch sent up all kinds of rockets & the place looked as if it was on fire. It was a wonderful sight to watch but one wondered that anyone could live in it all both sides firing as hard as possible. *[End page]*

## Letter from E Bernard Wilson

Museum Number 1995.550.77.

20 March 1916

Front Page



20 March 16

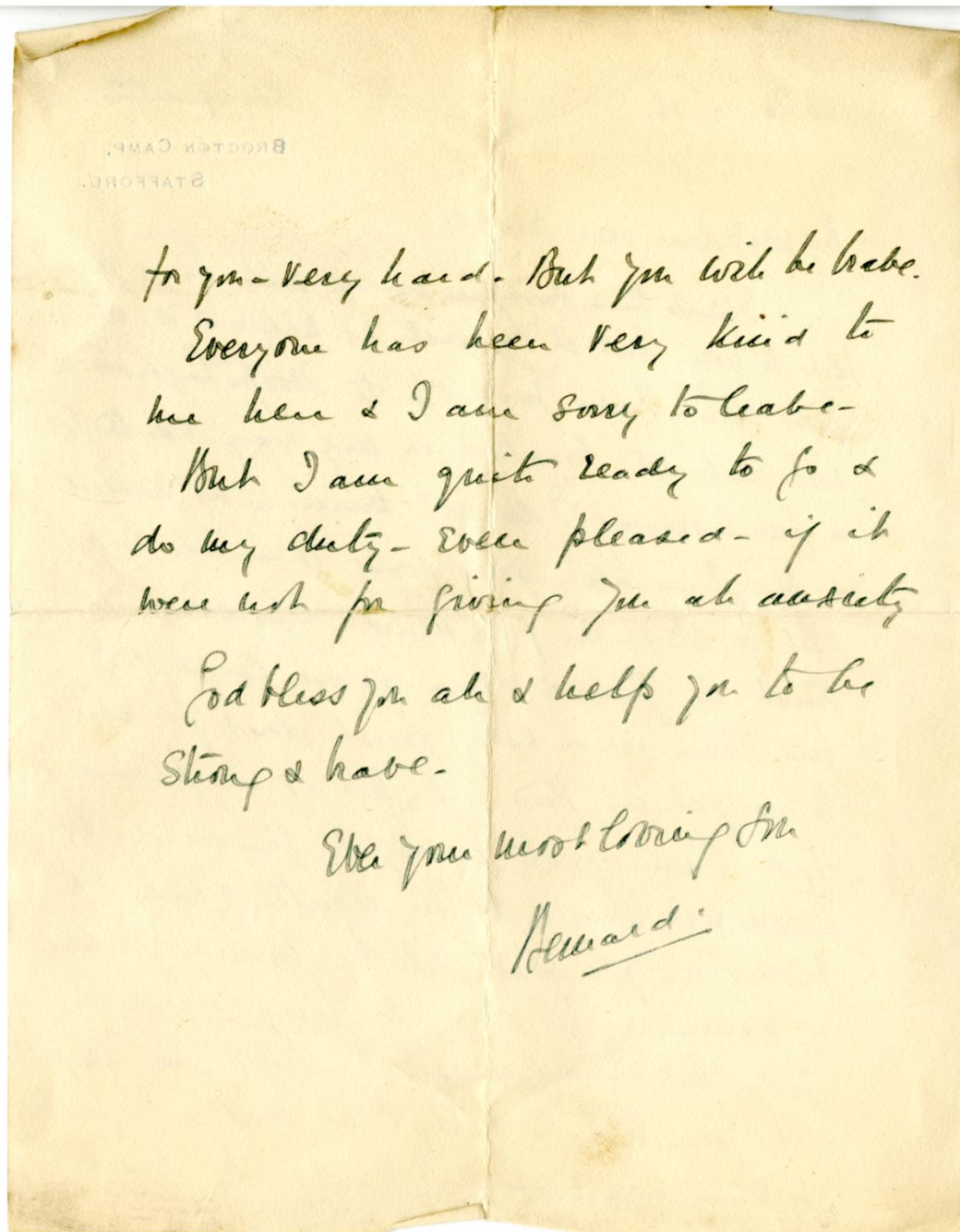
Headquarters

Brocton Camp

My very dear old people

Stafford

I know this sudden move will be a great blow to you . But it cannot be helped & its in Gods wish – I am just off to Hooton Pagnell & will call at Westal on my way South for a few hours. I do not mean to be killed & God has been very good to us all & he will be still. So you must cheer up & trust in God & our good luck. I feel that there is a very great deal for me to do in this life, but it if pleases God – I am quite ready to go – and then could die a better death & will be proud as you also will be proud for me if necessary to die for England & Gods fight against Kulture. So keep up your hearts & try to be brave - in fact I know you will. I know its hard *[End of page]*

**Letter from E Bernard Wilson****Museum Number 1995.550.77.****20 March 1916****Back page**

for you – very hard. But you will be brave.

Everyone has been very kind to  
me here & I am sorry to leave.

but I am quite ready to go &  
do my duty – even pleased , if it  
were not for giving you anxiety.

God bless you all & help you to be  
strong & brave.

Ever your most loving son

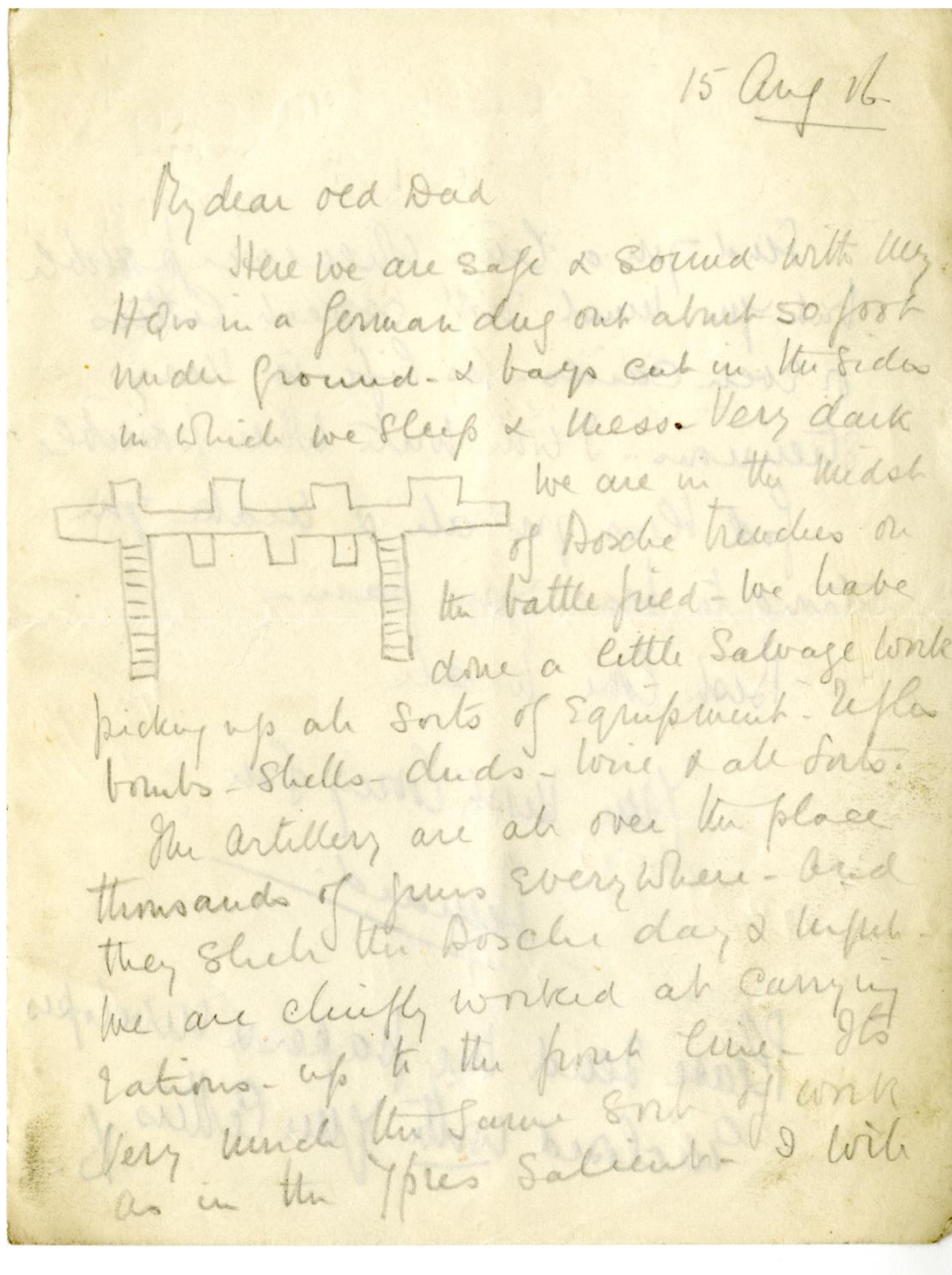
Bernard.

## Letter from E Bernard Wilson

Museum Number 1995.550.77

15 August 1916

Front page



15 Aug 16

My dear old Dad

Here we are safe & sound with my HQs in a German dug out about 50 foot under ground & bays cut in the sides in which we sleep & mess – very dark (Inserted here a drawing of the dug out) We are in the midst of Bosch trenches on the battlefield – we have done a little salvage work picking up all sorts of equipment. Rifles bombs – shells – duds – wire & all sorts. The artillery are all over the place thousands of guns everywhere- and they shell the Bosch day & night. We are chiefly worked at carrying rations up to the front line. Its very much the same sort of work as in the Ypres Salient. I will *[End of page]*

**Letter from E Bernard Wilson****Museum Number 1995.550.77****15 August 1916****Back page**

Send you a line whenever possible  
but you must not expect letters  
or even cards - As life is very  
strenuous - I will write when possible  
God bless you all & make you  
strong to bear your pain -  
Best love to all  
Your best love for shared  
Bernard.

Please send me paper & envelopes  
enclosed with your letters B.

send you a line whenever possible  
but you must not expect letters  
or even cards as life is very  
strenuous. I will write when possible.  
God bless you all & make you  
strong to bear your pain.

Best love to all

Your most loving son

Bernard

Please send the paper & envelopes

Enclosed with your letters.

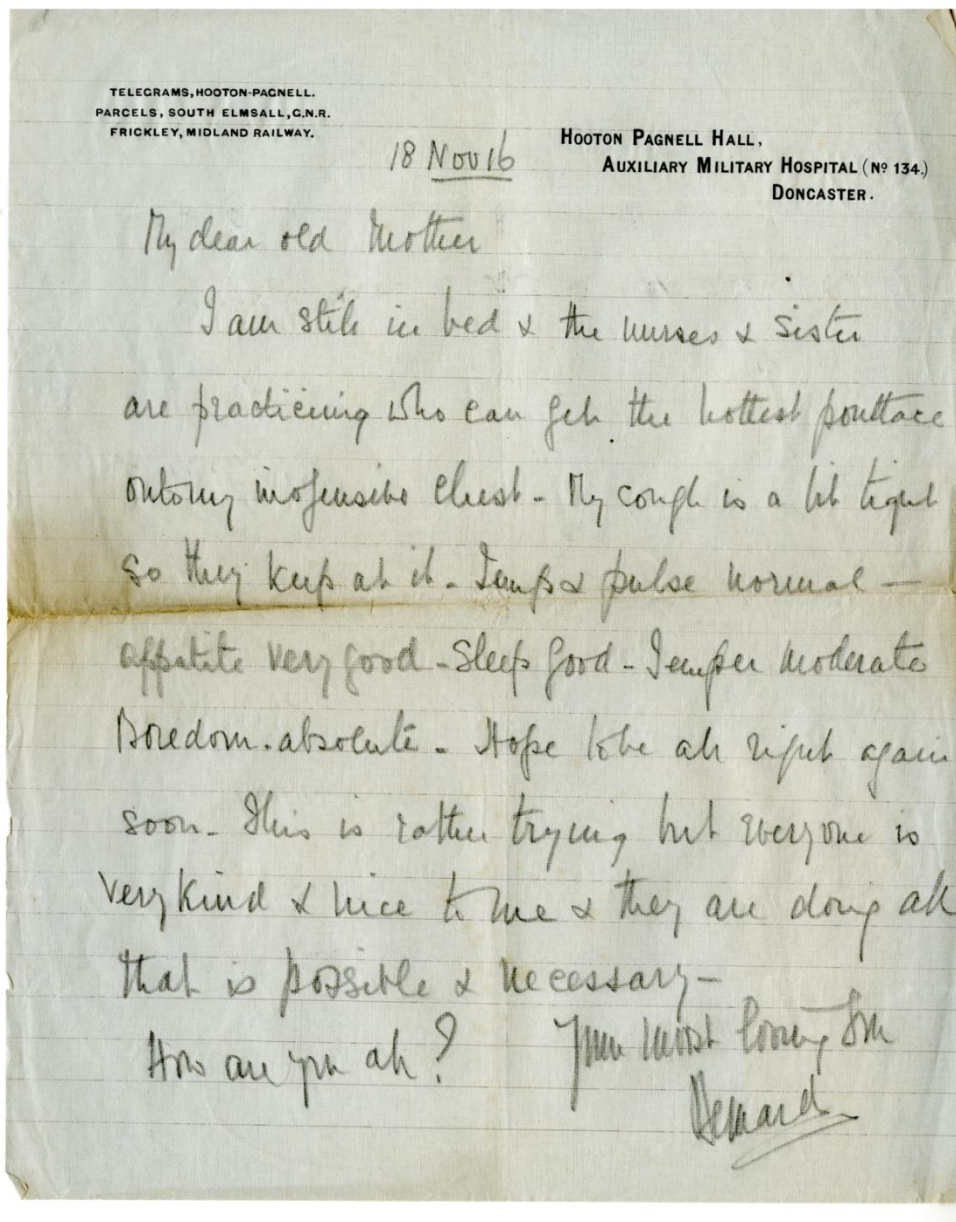
B.

# Letter from E Bernard Wilson

Museum Number 1995.550.77.17

18 November 1916

One page only



Telegrams, Hooton-Pagnell  
Parcels, South Emsall, G.N.R.  
Frickley, Midland Railway.

Hooton Pagnell Hall  
Auxiliary Military Hospital (N<sup>o</sup> 134)  
Doncaster

18 Nov 16

My dear old Mother

I am still in bed & the nurses & sister  
are practising who can get the hottest poultice  
on to my inoffensive chest – my cough is a bit tight  
so they keep at it. Temp & pulse normal –  
appetite very good. Sleep good. Temper moderate  
boredom absolute. Hope to be alright again  
soon. This is rather trying but everyone is  
very kind & nice to me & they are doing all  
that is possible & necessary.

How are you all ?

Your most loving son

Bernard

## Letter from E Bernard Wilson

Museum Number 1995.550.77

14 May 1917

Front page

6.30 PM 14 May 17. France

My very dear old Dad

I am sorry not to have been able to write the last day or two - but I have been up the line in Command of my own 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy - we have been in support - just behind the fire line & had some heavy shell fire - I have had one officer & several men wounded - two killed - we go out into reserve tonight. It has been rather a trying time but God is very good to me - This morning just after breakfast - we had a very fast Boishe aeroplane which attacked one of our observation places & they put up a great fight - but I am sorry to say the Boishe which was the leader - killed our pilot & the plane crashed to earth within 200 yds of me - I rushed up & was the first to get to them - the pilot was dead & the observer - very badly wounded but alive - I did all I could for him & got him away on one of our stretchers - He was such a plucky chap & went down over the

6.30 PM 14 May 17

France

My very dear old Dad

I am sorry not to have been able to write the last day or two, but I have been up the line in Command of my old "2" Coy. We have been in support, first behind the line & had some heavy shell fire. I have had one officer & several men wounded, two killed. We go out into reserve tonight. It has been rather a trying time but God is very good to me. This morning just after breakfast we had a very fast Bosche aeroplane which attacked one of our slow observation planes & they put up a great fight. But I am sorry to say the Bosche which was the faster – Killed our pilot & the plane crashed to earth within 200 yds of me. I rushed up & was the first to get to them. The pilot was dead and the observer very badly wounded but alive. I did all I could for him & got him away on one of our stretchers. He was such a plucky chap & most worried over the *[End of page]*

## Letter from E Bernard Wilson

Museum Number 1995.550.77

14 May 1917

Back page

death of his friend - "Poor old Brown" as he kept  
 saying - I am hoping as he got so soon to the C.O.S  
 that he may recover - however his wounds were all showing  
 thro' slits in his clothes - He was wonderfully plucky -  
 & then in a hour greatly deserted - shell swept - area  
 not a living tree - all cut down (except a few shell  
 from Stumps) The old Colonel has rejoined the Batt  
 So Nichols is Second in C. The air is just alive  
 with our aeroplanes - Our new fighters are very good -  
 we have had heavy showers & the land is just  
 awful - God bless you all - I love you very dearly  
 your most loving son  
Bernard

death of his friend. "Poor old Brown" as he kept saying. I am hoping as he left so soon to the C.C.S. that he may recover. However his bowels were all showing through slits in his clothes. He was wonderfully plucky. This is a most ghastly, deserted, shell swept area not a living tree all cut down (except a few shell torn stumps). The other Colonel has rejoined the Batt. So Nichols is second in C. The air is just alive with our aeroplanes – our new fighters are very good. We have had heavy showers & the mud is just awful. God bless you all. I love you very dearly.

Your most loving son

Bernard

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**Letter from E James Wilson****Museum number 1995.550.77.18.49****8 August 1918****Front Page**

C L B Camp  
August 8<sup>th</sup> 1918

My Dearest old Mother. I am writing  
this in Camp where I have been  
since Saturday with about 100 of  
our lads from Woburnhampton. We  
go home on Saturday. We have  
had quite a good time. We get up  
at 5.30 & have mass at 6.15 &  
spend the day in drill & marches  
& games & a concert each night  
wind up at 9.45 with a little service  
& prayers. It has kept fairly fine  
by day for us. I got your letter  
yesterday - Thanks very much. I  
think it would be excellent for  
Soda to join the S.P.G. Committee  
she could help a good deal &  
she neednt do more than she is

CLB Camp

August 8<sup>th</sup> 1918

My dearest old Mother

I am writing

this in Camp where I have been since Saturday with about 100 of our lads from Wolverhampton. We go home on Saturday. We have had quite a good time. We get up at 5.30 & have mass at 6.15 & spend the day in drill & marches & games & a Concert each night & end up at 9.45 with a little Service & prayers It has kept fairly fine by day for us. I got your letter alright – Thanks very much. I think it would be excellent for Ida to join the S.P.G. Committee she could help a good deal & she neednt do more than she is *[End of page]*

## Letter from E James Wilson

Museum number 1995.550.77.49 continued

8 August 1918

Middle pages

able. But it is a great thing to help on the missionary spirit of the town & she is always better when she has plenty of interest in hand. It is not work which will give her much running round to do. I don't think you ought to take on the Zulu work again. Hodson promised me that he would find someone. I will write to him again & offer to come down to a meeting for the Zulu Mission if he would let me & talk to his people about missions. If I can fix it up I would come & preach for him & have a meeting on Monday evening but I don't think that you ought to do the work any how. I am sure that with your garden you have enough work to do & if you take on too much you will get ill & that won't do. You can help the work by your prayers just as much now as in the other way. We are going to have a sale in December - 8<sup>th</sup> I think for Zulus & U.M.C.A. perhaps you will make a few things for it. I am so sorry about Polly's children but they have escaped well so far from all illnesses haven't they? Mother dear I meant to send Dad's ring back to you to be changed for the studs which I think will be more use to me. The ring is much too small. I will try to do so on Saturday before I go away on holiday. There are one or two of his books I should love to have some time later on. What about the Telescope is Pat to have it? I know he would love to have it, if it was for him. We are all looking forward to

[[Page 2]] able. But it is a great thing to help on the missionary spirit of the town & Ida is always better when she has plenty of interest in hand It is not work which will give her much running round to do. I dont think you ought to take on the Zulu work on again. Hodson promised me that he would find someone. I will write to him again & offer to come down to a meeting for the Zulu mission if he would let me to talk to his people about missions. If I can fix it up I would come & preach for him & have a meeting on Monday evening but I dont think that you ought to do the work any how. I am sure that with your garden you have enough work to do & if you take on too much

## Letter from E James Wilson

Museum number 1995.550.77.49 continued

8 August 1918

Middle pages continued

able. But it is a great thing to help on the missionary spirit of the town. Idea is always better when she has plenty of interest in hand. It is not work which will give her much running round to do. I don't think you ought to take on the Zulu work again. Hodson promised me that he would find someone. I will write to him again & offer to come down to a meeting for the Zulu Mission if he would let me talk to his people about missions. If I can fix it up I would come & preach for him & have a meeting on Monday evening but I don't think that you ought to do the work any how. I am sure that with your garden you have enough work to do & if you take on too much you will get ill & that won't do. You can help the work by your prayers just as much now as in the other way. We are going to have a sale in December - 8<sup>th</sup> I think for Zulus & U.M.C.A. perhaps you will make a few things for it. I am so sorry about Polly's children but they have escaped well so far from all illnesses haven't they? Mother dear I meant to send Dad's ring back to you to exchange for the studs which I think will be more use to me. The ring is much too small. I will try to do so on Saturday before I go away on holiday. There are one or two of his books I should love to have some time later on. What about the Telescope is Pat to have it? I know he would love to have it, if it was for him. We are all looking forward to

[[Page 3]] you will get ill & that wont do.

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love to have some time later on &  
what about the Telescope is Pat  
to have it? I know he would love  
to have it, if it was for him.

We are all looking forward to *[End of page]*

## Museum number 1995.550.77.49 continued

### Back page

our holiday on Monday we go  
 to c/o Mrs Deakin  
 The Roller Mills  
 Walecot, Salop.  
 There is a sluggish river close  
 to the house with Pike & Roach &  
 Dace in it but no trout. I expect  
 Pat will love to learn to fish. By  
 the way I wonder if Bernard wants  
 Dads fishing things if not I should  
 love to have some of them and his  
 gun which is a thing I have always  
 wanted. Those were things he really  
 loved & I think I have inherited a  
 good deal of his keenness for them.  
 Well Mother dear. I must write  
 again soon. I shall have time  
 after Sunday & I hope I shall  
 hear from you early next week  
 Have you news of Bernard?  
 My dearest love to you & all at Walecot  
 Your own dearest son Jim

our holiday on Monday we go

to c/o M<sup>rs</sup> Deakin

The Roller Mills

Walcot. Salop.

There is a sluggish river close  
the house with Pike & Roach &  
Dace in it but no trout. I expect  
Pat will love to learn to fish. By  
the way I wonder if Bernard wants  
Dads fishing things if not I should  
love to have some of them. And his  
gun which is a thing I have always  
wanted. Those were things he really  
loved & I think I have inherited  
a good deal of his keenness for them.  
Well mother dear. I must write  
again soon. I shall have time  
after Sunday I hope & shall  
hear from you early next week  
Have you news of Bernard?  
My dearest love to you & all at [Wetl]  
Ever your dearest son

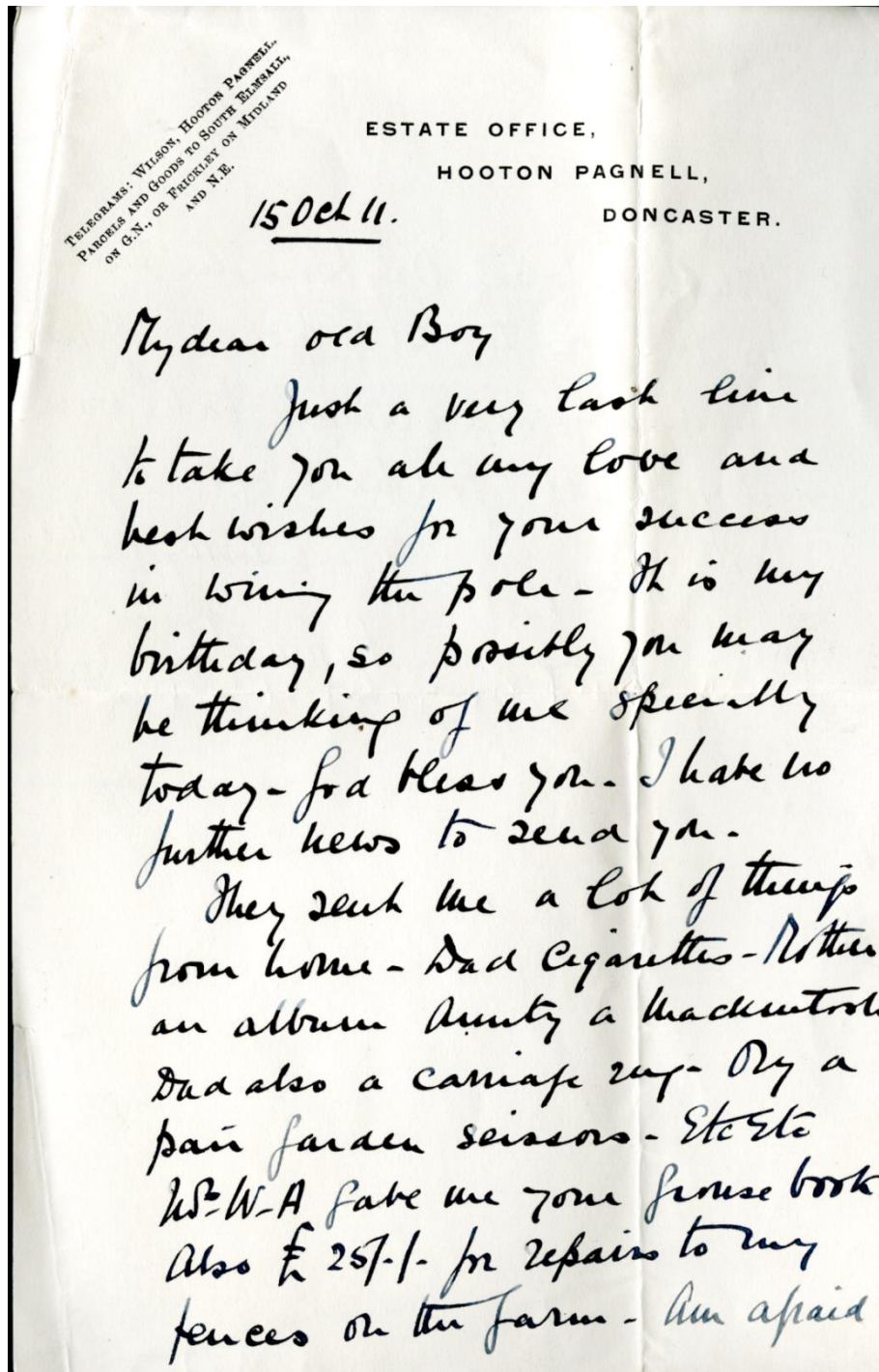
Jim

# Letter from E Bernard Wilson

Museum number 1995.550.77

15 October 1911

Front Page



Estate Office

Hooton Pagnall

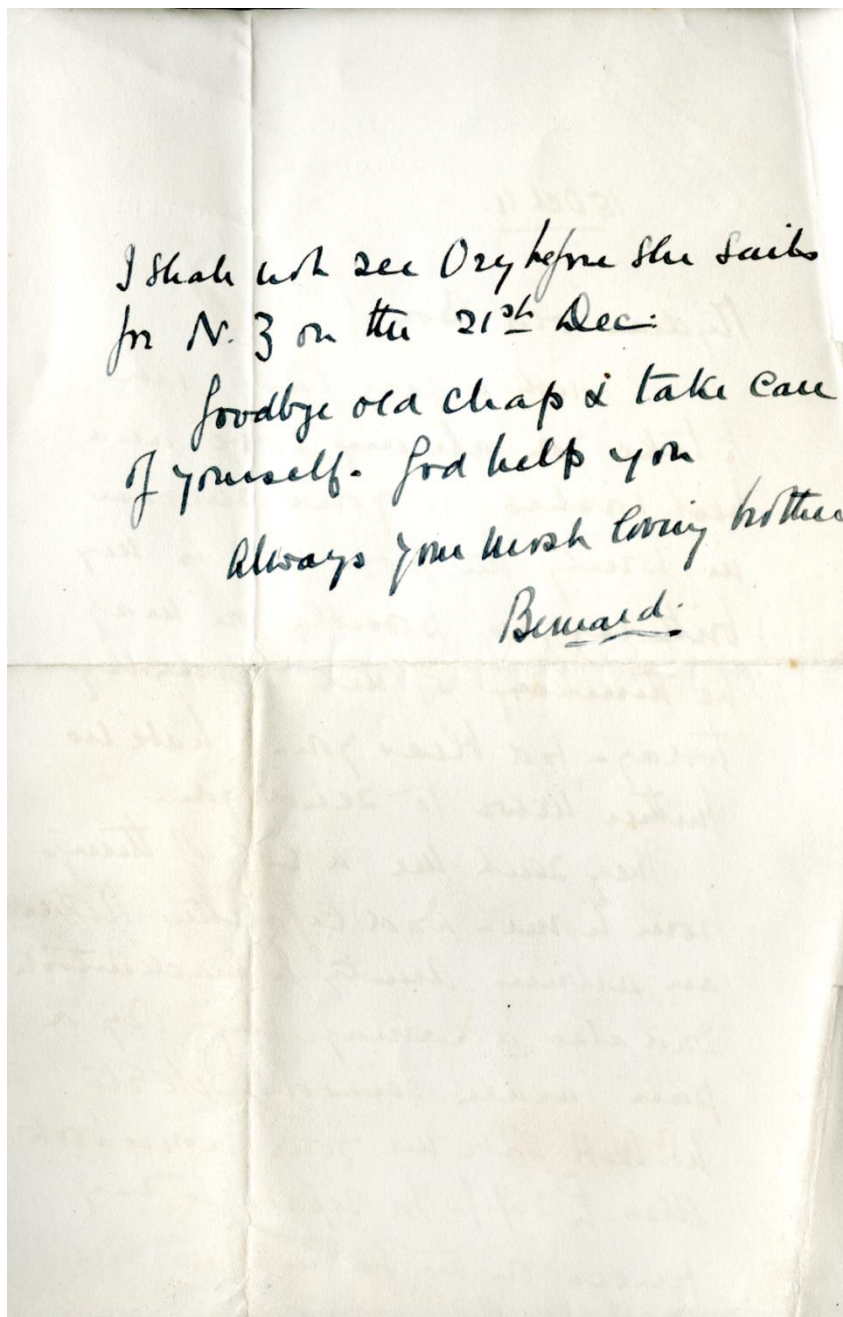
15 Oct 11

Doncaster

My dear old Boy

Just a very last line  
to take you all my love  
and best wishes for your success  
in winning the pole – It is my  
birthday, so possibly you may  
be thinking of us specially  
today – God bless you. I have no  
further news to send you.

They sent me a lot of things  
from home – Dad Cigarettes – Mother  
an album Aunty a Mackintosh  
Dad also a carriage rug – Ory a  
pair garden scissors – Etc Etc  
Mrs.W.A gave me your grouse book  
Also £25/-/- for repairs to my  
fences on the farm – Am afraid *[End of page]*

**Letter from E Bernard Wilson****Museum number 1995.550.77****15 October 1911****Back page**

I shall not see Ory before she sails  
for N. 3 on the 21<sup>st</sup> Dec:  
Goodbye old chap & take care  
of yourself. God bless you  
Always your wish loving brother  
Bernard:

I shall not see Ory before she sails  
for N.Z. on the 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.

Goodbye old chap & take care  
of yourself. God help you.

Always your most loving brother

Bernard

**Letter sent to Ted Wilson**

**Museum number 2003.179.2**

**Undated**

**One page only**

This letter is one I wrote & sent to Ted Wilson  
 | "Dr. Wilson" of Antarctic Game. | -  
 It went out in the "Terra Nova"  
 where it went to fetch the  
 expedition back again - in 1913.  
 (only to find alas! that Capt:  
 Scott - Dr. Wilson. - Capt. Oates.  
 - Bowers. & Seaman Evans -  
 had died on their return from the  
 South Pole. /.

This letter is one I wrote & sent to Ted Wilson

“Dr. Wilson” of Antarctic fame /-

It went out in the “Terra Nova”

when it went to fetch the

Expedition back again – in 1913.

only to find alas ! that Capt.

Scott, Dr. Wilson, Capt. Oates,

- Bowers & Seaman Evans –

had died on their return from the

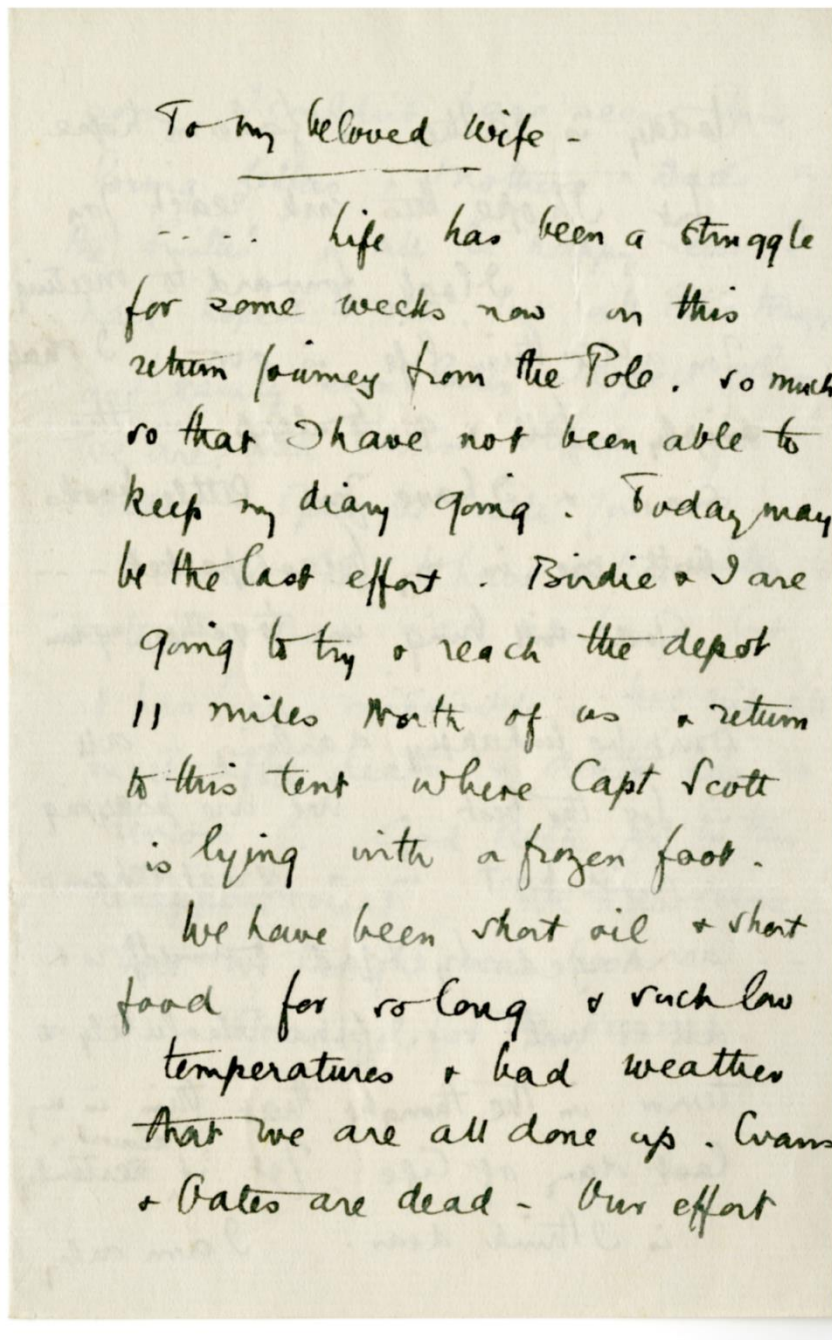
South Pole.

## Letter from Edward A Wilson

Museum number 2010.35

March 1912

Front page

A photograph of a handwritten letter on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in cursive and is somewhat faded. The letter is addressed to the writer's wife and describes a difficult journey from the Pole, mentioning a frozen foot and the deaths of two companions, Evans and Bates.

To my beloved wife -

... life has been a struggle for some weeks now on this return journey from the Pole, so much so that I have not been able to keep my diary going. Today may be the last effort. Birdie & I are going to try & reach the depot 11 miles north of us & return to this tent where Capt Scott is lying with a frozen foot.

We have been short oil & short food for so long & such low temperatures & bad weather that we are all done up. Evans & Bates are dead - Our effort

To my beloved wife

- - - Life has been a struggle  
for some weeks now on this  
return journey from the Pole so much  
so that / I have not been able to  
keep my / diary going. Today may  
be the / last effort. Birdie & I are  
going to / try & reach the depot  
11 miles N. of us / & return  
to this tent where Capt Scott /  
is lying with a frozen foot.  
We have been short oil, & / short  
food for so long & such low /  
temperatures & bad weather  
that / we are all done up - Evans  
& Oates / are dead - our effort *[End of page]*

# Letter from Edward A Wilson

Museum number 2010.35

March 1912

Back pages

today, is rather a falom hope  
 but I hope this ink reach you  
 . . . . I look forward to meeting  
 you after this life is over. I shall  
 simply fall & go to sleep in the  
 snow & I have your little books  
 with me in my breast pocket - -  
 God will bring us together again  
 . . . . .  
 Don't be unhappy darling - all  
 is for the best. We are playing  
 a good part in a great scheme  
 arranged by God himself &  
 all is well. I find absolutely no  
 terror in the thought that this is my  
 last day of life. Yet it <sup>almost</sup> ~~certainly~~  
 is I think dear. I am only

sorry I couldn't have seen your  
 loving letters & Mother's & Dad's &  
 the Smiths' & all the happy news I  
 had hoped to see, but all these things  
 are easily seen later I expect when  
 we are with Christ which is far  
 better. God be with you . . . .  
 I would like to have written ~~with~~ to  
 Mother & Dad & all at home but  
 it has been impossible. We will all  
 meet after death & death has no  
 terrors. God keep you in this  
 disappointment. We have done  
 what we thought was best . . . .  
 Goodbye for the present -  
 . . . . .

[[Page2]]

today is rather a forlorn hope  
but I hope this will reach you  
- - - - I look forward to meeting  
you after this life is over. I shall  
simply fall & go to sleep in the  
snow & I have your little books  
with me in my breast pocket - - - .  
God will bring us together again  
- - -

Don't be unhappy darling - all  
is for the best. We are playing  
a good part in a great scheme  
arranged by God himself &  
all is well - I find absolutely no  
terror in the thought that this is my  
last day of life yet it almost certainly  
is, I think, dear. I am only

# Letter from Edward A Wilson

Museum number 2010.35

March 1912

Back pages

today is rather a falom hope  
 but I hope this ink reach you  
 . . . . I look forward to meeting  
 you after this life is over. I shall  
 simply fall & go to sleep in the  
 snow & I have your little books  
 with me in my breast pocket - -  
 God will bring us together again  
 . . . . .  
 Don't be unhappy darling - all  
 is for the best. We are playing  
 a good part in a great scheme  
 arranged by God himself &  
 all is well. I find absolutely no  
 terror in the thought that this is my  
 last day of life, yet it <sup>almost</sup> ~~certainly~~  
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 we are with Christ which is far  
 better. God be with you . . . .  
 I would like to have written ~~with~~ to  
 Mother & Dad & all at home but  
 it has been impossible. We will all  
 meet after death & death has no  
 tomorrow. God keep you in this  
 disappointment. We have done  
 what we thought was best . . . .  
 Goodbye for the present -  
 . . . . .

[[Page 3]]

sorry I couldn't have seen  
your loving letters & Mother's & Dad's &  
the Smiths & all the happy news I  
had hoped to see, but all these things  
are easily seen later I expect when  
we are with Christ which is far  
better - God be with you - - -

I would like to have written to  
Mother & Dad & all at home but  
it has been impossible. We will all  
meet after death & death has no  
terrors. God keep you in this  
disappointment. We have done  
what we thought was best - - -  
Goodbye, for the present - - -

## Envelope from the Wilson Family

Museum number Eatwell Collection 14.412

August 1914

One page only

14-412.  
 Taken in the troops train  
 on Thursday afternoon August 20  
 1914. August 1914

August 1914.

Sunday 16. Left Kildare.  
 Monday 17. Sailed from North Wall. Dublin.  
 Wed. 19. Arrived HAVRE. In No 2 Camp.  
 Thursday 20. Evacuated at HAVRE for  
 AMIENS  
 Friday 21. Detained at LE CATEAU  
 & marched to a bivouac at  
 BAVAY.  
 Sunday 23 Arrived at DOUR (MONS).  
 Houston, Tyler, and Edgell.

Taken in the troop train  
on Thursday afternoon August 20 1914

August 1914

Sunday 16. Left Kildare.

Monday 17. Sailed from North Walk, Dublin

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Friday 21. Detrained at LE CATEAU

& marched to a bivouac at

BAVAY.

Sunday 23. Arrived at DOUR (MONS)

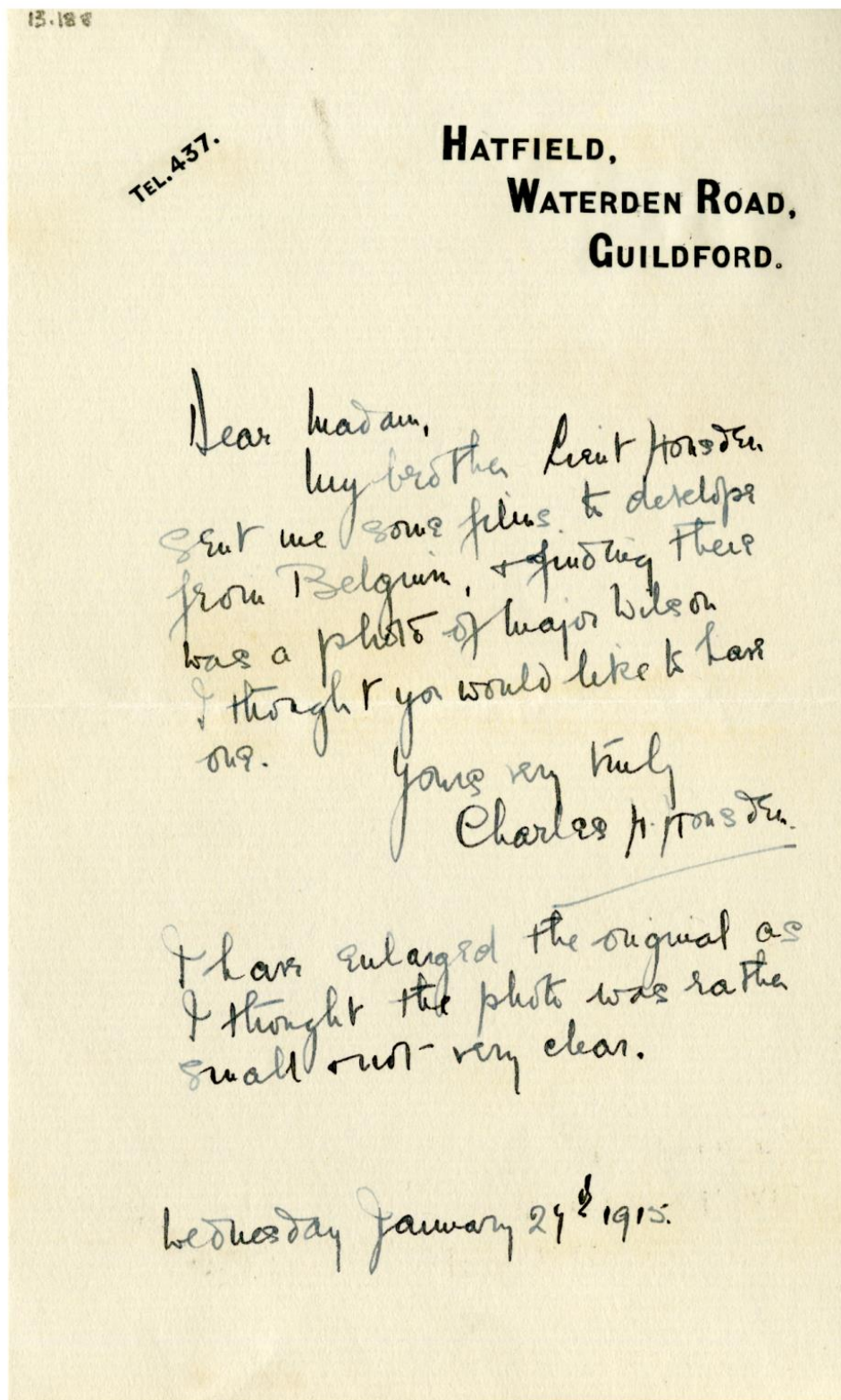
Housden, Tyler & Edge.

## Letter from Charles H Housden

Museum number Eatwell Collection 13.188

27 January 1915

One side only



Tel. 437

Hatfield  
Waterden Road  
Guildford

Dear Madam

My brother Lieut Housden  
sent me some films to develop  
from Belgium, & finding there  
was a photo of Major Wilson  
I thought you would like to have  
one.

Yours very truly

Charles M. Housden

I have enlarged the original as  
I thought the photo was rather  
small & not very clear.

Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup> 1915.

# The First Accessions Register

Open on 1916

Left page

DATE.	No.	DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE.										
1916	33											
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 141</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0.</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 141	Ind.	£ 0.	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			Roman Pottery re. found in a field nr Andover " " from Spoonley Villa 1898 <sup>1915</sup>
Acc.												
No.	✓ 141											
Ind.	£ 0.											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 142</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0.</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 142	Ind.	£ 0.	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			Panorama View painted by Mr Stuart Hillard from Leckhampton Hill.
Acc.												
No.	✓ 142											
Ind.	£ 0.											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 143</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0.</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 143	Ind.	£ 0.	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			<del>Eggs from N.W. Provinces of India</del>
Acc.												
No.	✓ 143											
Ind.	£ 0.											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 144</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0.</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 144	Ind.	£ 0.	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			arrow head. [from Cotswolds]
Acc.												
No.	✓ 144											
Ind.	£ 0.											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 145</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0.</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 145	Ind.	£ 0.	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			Crystals of Iron Pyrites, build (2 specimens)
Acc.												
No.	✓ 145											
Ind.	£ 0.											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 146</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0.</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 146	Ind.	£ 0.	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			Two rubbings of Monumental Brasses - (a) Sir Wm Greville 1613 in Chelt. Par. (b) Bp. Monk (Bp of Gloucester 1830-56) in the N. aisle of Westminster Abbey
Acc.												
No.	✓ 146											
Ind.	£ 0.											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 147</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0.</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 147	Ind.	£ 0.	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			Framesd Series of Seals of Gloucestershire Abbey & Armorial Bearings.
Acc.												
No.	✓ 147											
Ind.	£ 0.											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 148</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0. (A)(B)</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 148	Ind.	£ 0. (A)(B)	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			Two Lithographs by W. R. Symonds a native of Cheltenham.
Acc.												
No.	✓ 148											
Ind.	£ 0. (A)(B)											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No.</td><td>✓ 149</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind.</td><td>£ 0.</td></tr> <tr><td>Don.</td><td>✓ G.H.W.</td></tr> <tr><td>Art.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc.		No.	✓ 149	Ind.	£ 0.	Don.	✓ G.H.W.	Art.			Gold plated Replica of the Medal struck in Germany to commemorate the sinking of the 'Lusitania'
Acc.												
No.	✓ 149											
Ind.	£ 0.											
Don.	✓ G.H.W.											
Art.												

Date 1916	No 33	Description of article																		
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Nov30</td><td>// 141</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind E.O</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Don /</td><td>EMW</td></tr> <tr><td>Art</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc		No		Nov30	// 141	Ind E.O		Don /	EMW	Art			Roman Pottery found in a field near Andoversford " " from Spoonly Villa 1898						
Acc																				
No																				
Nov30	// 141																			
Ind E.O																				
Don /	EMW																			
Art																				
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc Dec 1. /</td><td>142</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Ind E.O</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Don 1917</td><td>EMW</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 2</td><td>143</td></tr> <tr><td>Acc</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No 4 /</td><td>144</td></tr> <tr><td>Ind E.O</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Don</td><td>EMW</td></tr> </table>	Acc Dec 1. /	142	No		Ind E.O		Don 1917	EMW	Jan 2	143	Acc		No 4 /	144	Ind E.O		Don	EMW		Panorama view painted by Mr Stuart Milland from Leckhampton Hill  Eggs from N.W Provinces of India  Arrow head [from Cotswolds]
Acc Dec 1. /	142																			
No																				
Ind E.O																				
Don 1917	EMW																			
Jan 2	143																			
Acc																				
No 4 /	144																			
Ind E.O																				
Don	EMW																			
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Ind E.O</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td><b>1917</b></td><td>EMW</td></tr> <tr><td>Art</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc		No		Ind E.O		<b>1917</b>	EMW	Art			Crystals of Iron Pyrites, Chili (2 specimens)								
Acc																				
No																				
Ind E.O																				
<b>1917</b>	EMW																			
Art																				
<table border="1"> <tr><td><b>April 16 //</b></td><td><b>146</b></td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Ind <b>E.O</b></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Don <b>EMW</b></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Art</td><td></td></tr> </table>	<b>April 16 //</b>	<b>146</b>	No		Ind <b>E.O</b>		Don <b>EMW</b>		Art			Two rubbings of Monumental Brassers. – Sir Wm Greville c1613 in Cheltenham Parish  Bp Monk (Bp of Gloucester 1830-'56) in the N Aisle of Westminster Abbey								
<b>April 16 //</b>	<b>146</b>																			
No																				
Ind <b>E.O</b>																				
Don <b>EMW</b>																				
Art																				
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Ind</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>May 11 /</td><td><b>E.O 147</b></td></tr> <tr><td>Don</td><td><b>EMW</b></td></tr> <tr><td>Art</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc		No		Ind		May 11 /	<b>E.O 147</b>	Don	<b>EMW</b>	Art			Framed Series of Seals of Gloucestershire Abbeys & ammorial Barings						
Acc																				
No																				
Ind																				
May 11 /	<b>E.O 147</b>																			
Don	<b>EMW</b>																			
Art																				
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Acc</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No //</td><td><b>148</b></td></tr> <tr><td>Ind E.O</td><td>(A)(B)</td></tr> <tr><td>Don EMW</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Art /</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Acc		No //	<b>148</b>	Ind E.O	(A)(B)	Don EMW		Art /			Two lithographs by W.R Tymms. a native of Cheltenham								
Acc																				
No //	<b>148</b>																			
Ind E.O	(A)(B)																			
Don EMW																				
Art /																				
<table border="1"> <tr><td><b>June /</b></td><td><b>149</b></td></tr> <tr><td>Acc</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Ind</td><td>E.O</td></tr> <tr><td>Don</td><td>EMW</td></tr> <tr><td>Art</td><td></td></tr> </table>	<b>June /</b>	<b>149</b>	Acc		No		Ind	E.O	Don	EMW	Art			Goldplated replica of the Medal struck in Germany to comemorate the sinking of the Lusitania						
<b>June /</b>	<b>149</b>																			
Acc																				
No																				
Ind	E.O																			
Don	EMW																			
Art																				

# The First Accessions Register

Open on 1916

Right page

OBTAINED FROM.	COST OR—	WHERE PLACED.	REMARKS.
Wm. Dawson		Museum. Luthr. 184. Arch.	
"		185. Arch. Rm.	
Pruen		Geological. Rom. Drawer	
Sanders		<del>Stock room.</del>	Discarded 14 Apr. 1942 by C. R. Mapp + D. H. H.
Mason			
W. G. G. G.			
Muller-Watson		CASE 108 D 299 Museum.	
P. P. P.			
H. H. H.		Crystals, line 54. Pyrite 53. Museum.	
P. P. P., P. P. P., P. P. P. Rd.			
A. Hunter Esq.		Old office Museum.	
The College			
A. Hunter Esq.		Print Store	
The College		"	
Jane Philip		Locker 6. Geology. Rom. Drawer (see Prints)	
Bramington Place			
The Mayor of Bullerham		Coin Cabinet	
(see Jones)			

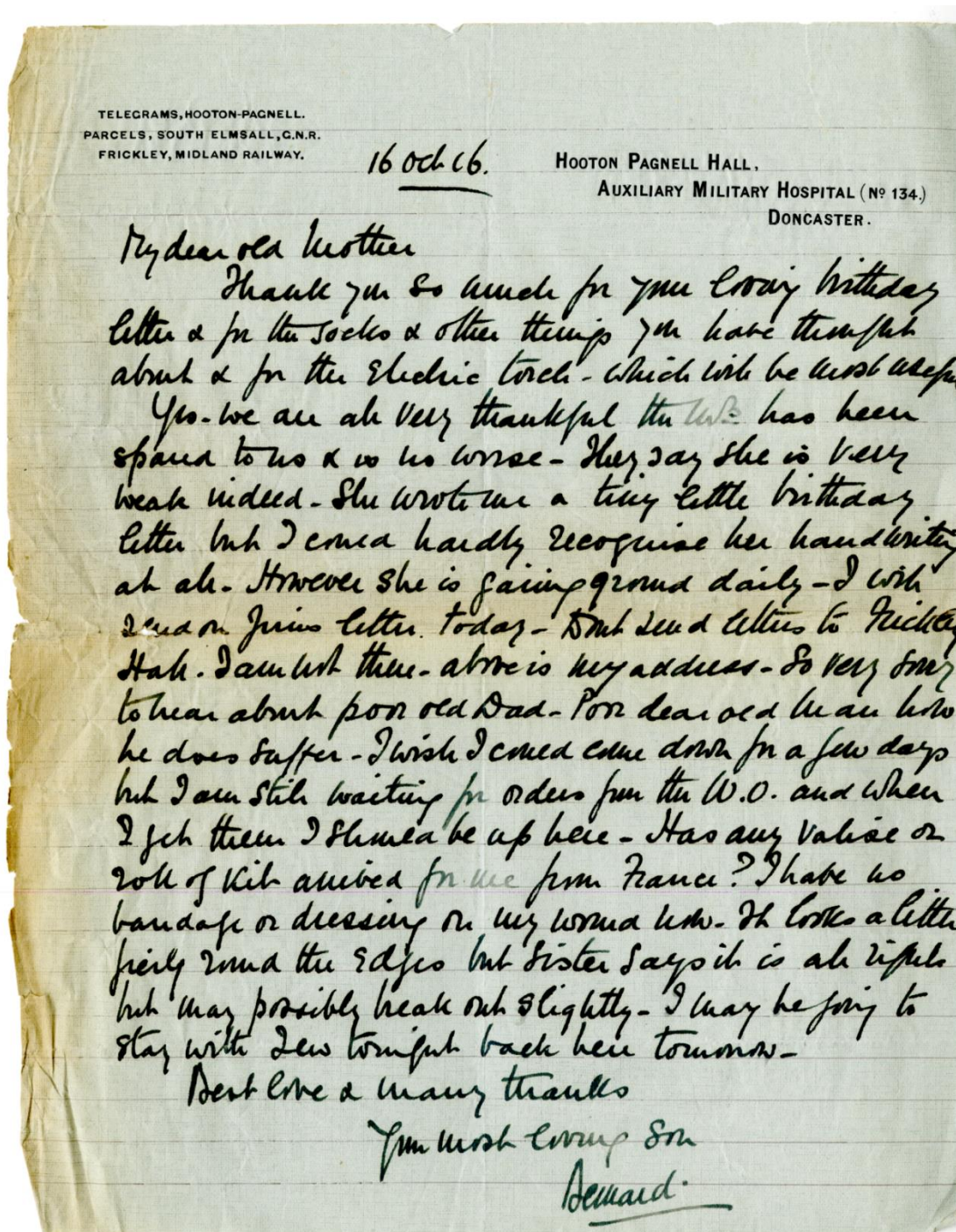
Obtained from	Cost or-	Where Placed	Remarks
Ulric Daubeny “		Museum Locker , 184 Arch 185 Arch Rm	
Dr Pruen  <del>Mrs Stanton</del> <del>The Warren</del> <del>Weybridge</del>  H Sutch Esq Penlee Priestbury Rd		Geological Room Drawer  <del>Stock Room</del>  Crystals Case 57 Pyrite 53 Museum	<b>Discarded 14 April 1942 By CRMapps + DWH</b>
A Hunter Esq The College		Old Office Museum	
A Hunter Esq The College		Print Store “	
Jane Philp Leamington Place		Locker 6 Geology Rm Drawer (acc Prints)	
The Mayor of Cheltenham  (T Rees-Jones)		Coin cabinet	

# Letter from E Bernard Wilson

Museum number 1955.550.77

16 October

One side only



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Telegrams, Hooton-Pagnell  
Parcel, South Emsall, G.N.R.  
Frickley, Midland Railway

16 Oct 16

Hooton Pagnell Hall

Auxiliary Military Hospital (N<sup>o</sup> 134)  
Doncaster

My dear old Mother

Thank you so much for your loving birthday letter & for the socks & other things you have thought about & for the electric torch – which will be most useful

Yes we are all very thankful that Mrs B has been spared to us & is no worse. They say she is very weak indeed. She wrote me a tiny little birthday letter but I could hardly recognise her handwriting at all. However she is gaining ground daily – I will send on Jim's letter today – don't send letters to Frickley Hall. I am not there – above is my address. So very sorry

to hear about poor old Dad. Poor dear old man how

he does suffer. I wish I could come down for a few days

but I am still waiting for orders from the W.O. and when I get them I should be up here. Has any valise or roll of kit arrived for me from France ? I have no bandage or dressing on my wound now. It looks a little fiery round the edges but Sister says it is alright but possibly may break out slightly. I may be going to stay with Lew tonight back here tomorrow.

Best love & many thanks

Your most loving son

Bernard