

May 22nd

Dear Mother

I recieved your parcel alright and I also had one from Letty. I am quite well and am at present a good way back from the line for a rest as they call it, but I expect we shall be back again in the trenches by the time this letter reaches you. The weather is very warm out here and with the least bit of marching we get a wet shirt. We are billeted in a large barn which is swarming with rats, and at night they come out in full force walking over the chaps and some are cheeky enough to sit on ones face and even nibble at your big toe if it is poking out of the blanket. Last night they caused a big disturbance by knocking a dixie of a nail and it woke one of the chaps up by falling on his face and by him yelling we very nearly all woke up and started chasing the brutes. They are still worse in the trenches and I expect there will be a plague of them soon.

I had a letter from Dai a few days back but have not seen or heard from Tom yet, and I hope that the time will soon come so that we shall be able to see each other at home again. The French people seems to think that the war will come to an end sometime in Autumn, but I think they can keep on thinking until it doesse finish. I shall try those tablets next time in the trenches and shall let you know whether they are of any use or not. I hope that you are all as well as what I am and next time you send a parcel please shove in a tin of health salts.

love to all
Jack