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Norton, Henry Thomas, 1880-1916

Letters

Auckland War Memorial Museum – Tāmaki Paenga Hira

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pockets, & we sometimes get wet through, and by the time I have my pipe & matches & tobacco & knife & a few buttons etc, my pockets are full. We carry about 100lbs on our backs, made up of clothes, blanket & ammunition and maps. So you see, only a few ounces tell up in weight. We will not even carry a spare pair of socks because of the weight. It is dreadfully heavy sometimes when we are tired. But all the same we are having a good time & lots of fun.

In a few days I will be leaving Du. I will see him often, but I will be going to good old friends. I still have plenty of money & my stripes. I have not drawn all my pay. I do not use it all, but kept it for emergencies. I will get a trip to England soon and will go to your Uncle John.

My address is still

10 Coy 2nd Battalion
Otago Infantry Regiment. B.E.F.
(British Expeditionary Force)

Frank Lampen is Major now & is the Chief of Intelligence Corps here for our Battalion. I often see him. He is training us.

Now dear wife, I send you all my love & kisses for the children

Your soldier Husband

Harry Norton

X X X X X

May 10 1916

Dearie

I have had a good spell, & am off again to the Trenches in the morning. We are going by Motor bus, so will not have much marching to do. We do ten days in, & 10 days spell, and are glad to get back again. We miss the heavy artillery fire. We can sleep through all the din & the noise. Sometimes it is terrific.

There is one thing I hope you have done. You received in one of my letters, a warning to disinfect the silks & things I sent from Egypt. You probably received a note from the Govt to have all presents disinfected. They will do it, and guarantee not to spoil anything. They are apt to contain germs of skin diseases, and you might catch something. I did not know at the time I sent them, that it was so imperative, so if you have not had them done do so at once. Everything in the box, & my kit, which I sent back.

The enclosed newspaper cutting, I have found very interesting and although I am not yet a gonner, I am absent from home and loved ones. You can hardly understand how I feel. There seems to be 2 of myself. I am doing my day's work & paying attention to every detail, yet underneath it all there is another me, just the same, but thinking, thinking of you all the time, and I am with you in Spirit and never seem away from you Chum.

It is so strange, but I can control two lines of thought at the same time. I often see you in my sleep, & often wake up feeling that you are near me, and I am so happy. I seem to feel you fondling me Dear heart.

So when I read this article, it was so like what I felt, I have sent it to you.

I have no doubt that it is the Holy Spirit working in me. I try so hard all day long to lead a Christian life. I have realised that God is watching over me and I am going forward from day to day so comforted & happy, and I know I will come safely through & home to you all.

God bless & protect & comfort you all. Mitzpah

I send you all my love Dear wife

Your soldier boy

Harry

X X X X X

(Written article, to be photocopied for book?)

New Zealand Supplement Jan 1916

Prayer

'C.E.M.S. Magazine. Get them from Mr Johnson Continued on page 30, 31'

12/ 5/ 16

Dear Old Chum,

I was in the trenches 4 days before the Coy, and had the honour of firing the first shot at the enemy. Our Coy was the first N. Z. Troops to man the trenches in this country.

Your Soldier Boy

Harry