

Letter from a Recruit

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you just to let you know how me and my pals are getting on. I think it is the finest thing we could have done to join the new army. I am having the time of my life. I wouldn't be kicked out now I have got more used to it and learnt most of my drills.

We get plenty to eat up here. For breakfast we sometimes get salmon and other kinds of tinned goods also bacon. For dinner we get Irish stew and roast meat and vegetables; for tea we get bread and jam; and we also get pudding for dinner.

We are still under canvas, and we are having plenty of rain, which makes it very miserable for us, but we are expecting to be moved into huts any day now. So it will be a lot better for us.

I think there are plenty of lads round Stratford who have made a great mistake by not enlisting. If they want to list they would find it the happiest life going. Of course it seems a bit rough for a start, but we soon get used to it. We are as happy as sandboys. I think this is all the news this time.

I remain, yours truly.

ONE OF THE ETTINGTON BOYS

Letter from the Stratford Herald 4th December 1914