

# Letters from the Trenches

## SAMPLE PAGES

**Five letters written by Reg Knight  
on active service during the  
First World War**

Collated by Peter G Knight in 2012

Copyright in everything in this compilation remains with the Knight family, represented by Peter G Knight. Other than for educational use, any re-use of these materials is subject to permission. No re-use for commercial purposes is allowed without explicit written permission. For further information or permissions please contact via <http://www.petergknight.com> Permission for re-use for educational purposes is granted subject to appropriate acknowledgement to Peter G Knight and petergknight.com

### Introduction

This compilation consists of five letters written by Reg Knight of the Royal Engineers during the First World War. They are sent from various locations in France, Egypt and Turkey during active service between 1915 and 1918, sending news home about his actions at the front.

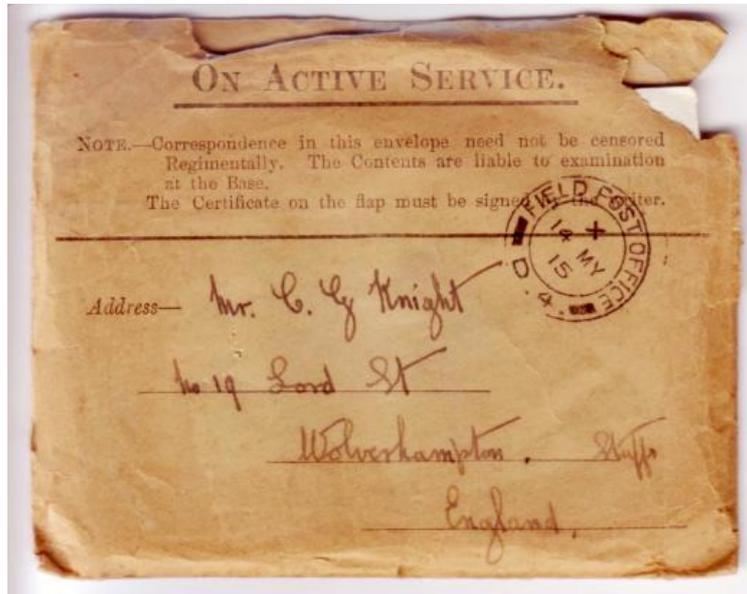
Each letter has been transcribed as precisely as possible from the original papers, including any peculiarities of spelling and with “??” inserted in a few locations where the original text is completely obscure or unintelligible. For each letter there is also a photograph of at least part of the original text.

The following letters are included:

- 14th May 1915
- 4th January 1917
- 1st January 1918
- 8th March 1918
- 14th November 1918

**14th May 1915**

From Reg F. Knight (Royal Engineers), Field Post Office (France) to his brother, Mr Charles Graham Knight, No 19 Lord St, Wolverhampton. Staffs. England



14/5/15

My Dear Brother,

A few lines to try and tell you what it is like out hear. I am giving no state secrets away, only telling bare facts, so I think I can sighn my name on the back, I did intend to write to you a few days ago, but there was an awful din going on we were staying in a cellar in the day and working in the trenches or in front of the trenches at night. It was impossible to sleep on account of the noise and the shells kept stricking the house and pieces of it kept falling, so I thought I would leave it till we got back, for we go back for a day or two, but work just as hard when we get back, but we get two or three nights in, so we don't mind. As you will see there has been some very heavy fighting round this way for the last two weeks, you say Brother you were confused to hear of me being in the front line of trenches, why. I have been at it since the end of August, and without a rest we out here are wondering if ever they will relieve us, and wonder "Will they ever come" It takes us all our time to keep together. You will understand that when I tell you we keep being moved to the places where the fighting is going on, at the present time I have got a splitting headache, owing to the use of the Gass used against us, but that is nothing, there was a big movement in this place

a few days ago, and we went to the trenches in daylight; we saw the Germans coming in to attack but no one knocked us off work. I was Orderlie to one of our officers that day; and during the day we went across a piece of open ground, and they turned a machine gun on us but thank God I had the presence of mind to lay flat down, or I should not be telling you this, after they had found their position they started shelling, and it was hell with the lid off what with gasping for Breath and expectin to be blown to pieces, to say nothing of being unable to see. we have lost a lot of men this last few weeks, and about twenty horses, rather a sad thing happened the other night we were out doing barbed wire in front of the trenches, they had been warned that we were out there, we had almost finished when two of our men were shot right through the head by our own people, but things like that are not talked of in the papers.

+ + +  
 100 of my  
 'pennies no  
 'good my pennies 'no  
 'if you will  
 'give me of my  
 same Address  
 14/5/15

My Dear Brother,

A few lines to try and tell you what it is like out here, I am giving no state secrets away, only telling bare facts so that I can make my name in the book, I did intend to write to you a few days ago, but there was a awful day going on we were staying in a cellar in the day and working in the trenches or in front of the trenches at night. It was impossible to sleep on account of the noise and the shells kept striking