

11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1916

My dear "Archie"

If I may call you  
by the old name by which your  
old pupils always think of you!

I found when I got home that  
Annie had sent you the photograph  
for which you kindly asked. I  
should have sent you one before  
but I am afraid I'm not strong  
on sending things like that out.

You always say very nice things.

I hope I deserve them.

It is very delightful and comfortable  
to be home and I think I can be  
useful to a new battalion. I know  
some of the fat falls anyway.

We had a very pleasant three  
or four months at Bramshott.  
Of course changes in the battalion  
were impending for some time  
which rather spoiled things but  
notwithstanding I enjoyed the life.

It is a lovely country - Bramshott  
heath was Dick Turpin's hunting  
ground & the Swiss Punch bowl at  
Sturhead is only four or five  
miles away. The country is full  
of hills & hollows. with big moors

and woodland paths which made it ideal for riding. One could go almost anywhere & still keep off the roads.

It is near London too - on the Portsmouth line so was convenient in that way. I was only about twenty miles from my sister Gerie so that was another point in its favour.

My last three weeks were spent taking a course in drill & hunderum essentials at Chelsea Barracks which did me a lot of good and was very interesting too.

The new battalion is well started. We need men of course. So far we have only a class for ~~1000~~ going. Active recruiting starts on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be slow work I fear but with the good lot of officers we have and the men we have so far I think prospects are very good.

I hope all your people are well. I did not see any of them in England. In fact hardly had time to see any one.

If you have time to write I should be glad to hear your news.

Was it it hard losing those two good boys Clavin & John?

Yours very sincerely

Gibbet S. Stairs