

**LETTERS and EFFECTS OF
FREDERICK CHARLES PLUMMER**

3105 Cpl. 3rd. LONDON REGIMENT T.F.



&

later

2nd.Lieut. 215th.Coy. MACHINE GUN CORPS



**KILLED IN ACTION
23rd. SEPTEMBER 1917**

**Presented to the Royal Fusiliers Archives
City of London HQ RRF
HM Tower of London
By his surviving Daughter
Miss. Violet Plummer**

**Collated and Annotated by J P Kelleher 2007
From material held in the Royal Fusiliers Archives**

Frederick Charles Plummer was born on 24th.January 1886, at Victoria Barracks, Hong Kong. He was the son of 20843 Cpl. Frederick Plummer serving with 5/1st.Eastern Division Royal Artillery, and Maria Aridale (nee Halloran). He had one brother, David Plummer. They were educated privately. In 1908 he married May Ethel St. John at St.Pancras. The 1891 Census for 22 New North Street Holborn shows her as the daughter of Harry, a carpenter, and Mary Ann St.John.

Frederick and May had two daughters, Olive Lilian May, born St. Pancras 19.9.1909 died 15.12.1975, and Violet Mary born Birmingham 27th.March 1912.

Mrs May Ethel Plummer, a widow in 1917 with two small children, took work with A.I.D. – Aeronautical Inspection Department. She never re-married and treasured her husbands effects to her dying day, 6th.October 1956.

It is to his surviving daughter Miss.Violet Plummer that grateful thanks are due for presenting her family mementoes to the Royal Fusiliers Archives in 1983.

JPK 2007



**Frederick and May Ethel Plummer
Olive Plummer standing
Violet Plummer seated on arm of chair**

Frederick Plummer was employed as an Assistant Manager at Maples in Tottenham Court Road; he took up this position in 1912, and on 1st. December 1914 he was arrested to serve in The 3rd. (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment. He was posted to 2nd. (Reserve) Bn. London Regt. On 26th. December, and appointed paid L-Cpl with 3/3rd. Bn. On 20th.February 1915, and Acting Lance Corporal on 24th.April 1915.

He embarked at Southampton with the first draft for 1/3rd.London on 5th.May 1915, disembarked at Havre on the 10th. and joined 1.3rd. on 12th.May.

1/3rd. London Regt. Took part in the abortive attack on Festubert on May 16th.

Saturday Nov 6/15

My darling May

Have been quite unable to write a letter since the first of the month as I have been through terrible conditions

It is a cruel + damnable shame that England who boasts of her humanity should allow one of her regiments to undergo what we have gone through

I will try + describe my experiences to you a little though it is impossible to properly describe it in words.

On Nov 1st as I told you in last letter I was moved into a post a little nearer the firing line. I was fairly comfortable there until directly I had written your letter we had orders to move + were sent up to another post only 30 yards behind firing line. It was pouring with rain when we started + to get there we had to go through trenches over knee deep in water + when we got to the post we found that also knee deep + the dug outs were useless for shelter as the rain came through + they were ankle deep in water

It was 4th clock in afternoon when we got there + we had to stand about ~~over~~ with the water over our knees all through the night which was freezing cold until 9th the following night

(2)

when we were relieved + found we had to march 15 miles to our billets. We were of course soaked through from head to foot ^{and our} ^{boots} ~~some~~ boots full of water so you can guess how it felt to march especially as we were carrying a full pack weighing about 90 lbs. At 2³⁰ in the morning we ~~were~~ still 5 miles from our destination + I slightly twisted my ankle + could not keep up with my party so had to drop out + come on slowly. Of course at that time in the morning no one was about + eventually I lost my way + got on a road without a house on it for miles. I trudged on + on but about 4³⁰ clock I was so knocked up that I had to rest for an hour (in the pouring rain) sitting on a heap of stones at the side of the road. After this rest I got on again + eventually reached a cottage + then found I had taken the wrong road + was 6 miles off my destination. Imagine my feelings. Anyhow I started off again + eventually got in at 8⁰⁰ clock dead beat especially as all I had had to eat for 36 hours was one slice of bread. At 2³⁰ clock in afternoon (6 hours after I got in) there was a parade + I was late on parade + am told I shall have to appear as a prisoner before the Captain. What

do you think of the famous + just British Army now? Well to continue, we were supposed to have finished with the trenches + were supposed to start for England the next day but at 3% in the morning this order was cancelled + we are told we are attached to one of Kitcheners new brigades + were marched back to trenches starting at 8% in the morning, still wet through, + arrived at the very same spot that we had just left. Owing to the rain in the meantime ~~it was now~~ the water was well up our thighs. Have just finished two days here + there is no sign of relief + the water is nearly up to our waists anyhow it covers my 'privates'. It froze hard all night last night so imagine the state we are in. Now it is we are still alive I really do not know. I am writing this lying on my waterproof lying on top of parapet as it is misty + the Germans cannot see our trenches. ~~The weather~~ You will now understand why a man wishes to stop a bullet like you say Haylocks son writes

There is now no hope of getting home by fair means so will take other steps. Am sorry you have not sent cocoa + coffee yet as it would have helped me a lot but I know dear you will send

it as soon as you can

The sausages arrived safely in good condition & were beautiful

Should also be glad of some milk

I am very sorry dear to hear you have such a bad cough. You must get some Oribangeth & shift it so don't waste any time dear but keep yourself fit.

Our boys are being sent off to hospital in batches but it is marvellous that I cannot get queer in spite of conditions

I want you to carefully preserve this letter & say nothing about it to anyone else outside our family & friends, as I shall take steps when I get home to let the public know how we are treated, but I dare not do so at now as they have a pull on me at present.

Our regiment has not had an official rest since July 17th last (4 months ago) true we have occasionally been in billets but have always been 'in reserve' which means you are likely to be called up any minute & consequently sleep with brook putties off on & everything close at hand

Now when we should go to England or at least have a long rest we are to be attached to a new

(5)

lot who have done nothing & so shall have to start
all over again. It is heartbreaking & it is
pitiful to hear the boys say we have no hopes now
left & the sooner it is over the better. There is a
limit to everyone's endurance & I think we have
almost reached it.

Have had all my cigarettes saturated with rain
& had to throw them away so am without a smoke
of any kind.

We have not had a bath or a clean shirt since
Sept 29th. All this helps to make us more
miserable.

Must close now dear as my fingers are nearly
frozen.

Dearest love dearest & cheer up, things must
change very soon now.

Your devoted husband
Dad

Saturday Nov 6/15
My Darling May

Have been quite unable to write a letter since the first of the month as I have been through terrible conditions.

It is a cruel and damnable shame that England who boasts of her humanity should allow one of her regiments to undergo what we have gone through. I will try & describe my experiences to you a little though it is impossible to properly describe it in words. On Nov 1st as I told you in last letter I was moved into a post [Richebourg St. Vaast] a little nearer the firing line. It was fairly comfortable there but directly I had written your letter we had orders to move and were sent up to another post only 30 yards behind the firing line. It was pouring with rain when we started and to get there we had to get through trenches over knee deep in water and when we got to the post we found that also knee deep. The dug outs were useless for shelter as the rain came through and they were ankle deep in water.

It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we got there and we had to stand about with the water over our knees all thorough the night, which was freezing cold, until 9 o'clock the following night when we were returned and found we had to march 15 miles to our billets. We were of course soaked through from head to foot and our boots full of water so you can guess how it felt to march, especially as we were carrying a full pack weighing about 90lbs. At 2 o'clock in the morning we were still 5 miles from our destination and I slightly twisted my ankle and could not keep up with my party and so had to drop out and come on slowly. Of course at that time in the morning no one was about and eventually I lost my way and got on a road without a house on it for miles. I trudged on and on but about 4 o'clock I was so knocked up that I had to rest for an hour (in the pouring rain) sitting on a heap of stones at the side of the road. After this rest I got on again and eventually reached a cottage and then found I had taken the wrong road and was 6 miles off my destination. Imagine my feelings. Anyhow I started off again and eventually got in [Calonne] at 8 o'clock dead beat especially as all I had to eat for 36 hours was one slice of bread. At 2 o'clock in the

afternoon (6 hours after I got in) there was a parade and I was late on parade and am told I shall have to appear as a prisoner before the Captain. What do you think of the famous and just British Army now? Well to continue, we were supposed to have finished with the trenches and were supposed to start for England the next day, but at 3 o/c in the morning this order was cancelled and we are told we are attached to one of Kitchener's new brigades, [139th.Brigade 46th Division]we were marched back to the trenches starting at 8 o/c in the morning, still wet through, and arrived at the very same post [Richebourg St.Vaast]we had just left. Owing to the rain in the meantime the water was well up to our thighs. Have just finished two days here and there is no sign of relief and the water is nearly up to our waists anyhow it covers my 'privates'. It froze hard all night last night so imagine the state we are in. How it is we are still alive I really do not know. I am writing this lying on my waterproof lying on top of parapet as it is misty and the Germans cannot see out trenches. You will understand why a man wishes to stop a bullet like you say Haylocks son writes.

There is no hope of getting home by fair means so will take other steps. Am sorry you have not sent cocoa and coffee yet as it would have helped me a lot, but I know dear you will send it as soon as you can.

The sausages arrived safely in good condition and were beautiful.

Should also be glad of some milk.

I am sorry to hear you have such a bad cough. You must get some Owbridges and shift it so don't waste any time dear but keep yourself fit.

Our boys are being sent off to hospital in batches but it is marvellous that I cannot get queer in spite of conditions

I want you to carefully preserve this letter and say nothing about it to anyone else outside our family and friends as I shall take steps when I get home to let the public know how we are treated, but I dare not do so now as they have a pull on me at present.

Our regiment has not had an official rest since July 17th last [Croix Barbee – Orchard and Crescent Trenches] (4 months ago) true we have occasionally been in billets but have always been in 'reserve' which means you are likely to be called up at any minute and consequently sleep with boots and puttees on and everything else at hand.

Now when we should get to England or at least have long rest we are to be attached to a new lot who have done nothing and so shall have to start all over again. It is heartbreaking and it is pitiful to hear the boys say we have no hopes now left and the sooner it is over the better. There is a limit to every ones endurance and I think we have almost reached it.

Have had all my cigarettes saturated with rain and had to throw them away so am without a smoke of any kind,

We have not had a bath or a clean shirt since Sept. 29th. All this helps to make us more miserable.

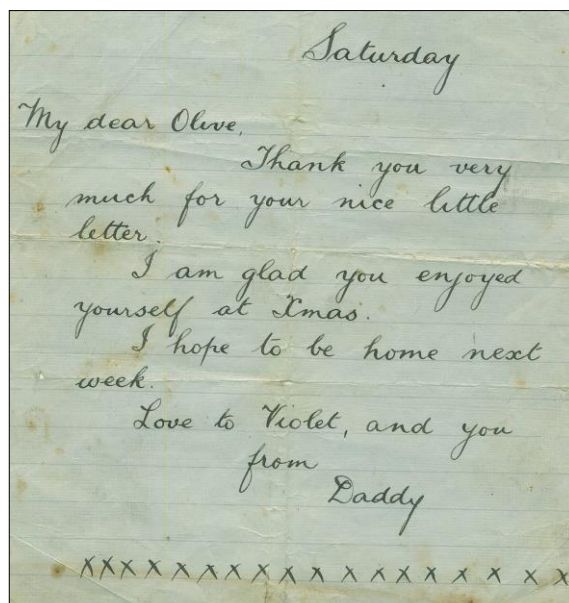
Must close now dear as my fingers are nearly frozen

Fondest love dearest and cheer up, things must change very soon now.

Your devoted husband

Fred

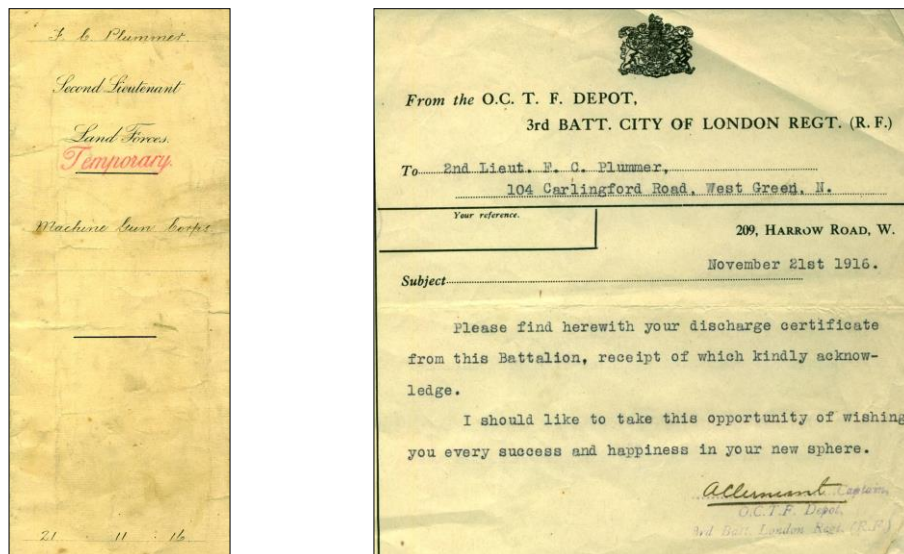
[On November 16th.1915 the 3rd.London's joined 142nd Brigade 47th (2nd London) Division T.F. near Lillers]





From November to December 1915 Cpl. Plummer was treated several time in the field for Pyrexia, and on 1st. January 1916 Connaught Hospital, Aldershot. On 22nd January, whilst at Woodcote Park Convalescent Hospital, Epsom, Plummer was examined with a view to being offered a Commission Having been discharged from hospital Cpl. Plummer was posted to 4/3rd. (Depot) Bn London Regt. where he was recommended for a Commission with 10th. (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment (Hackney).

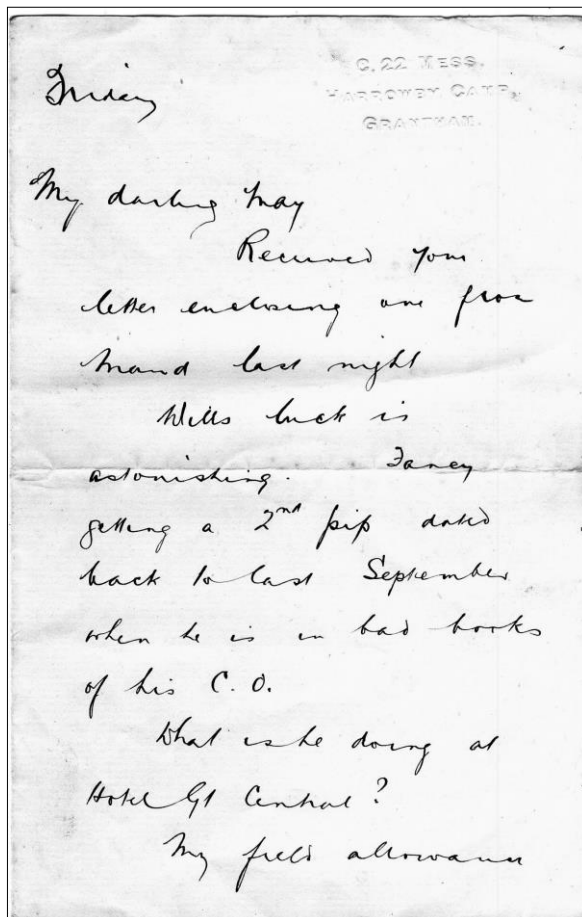
From 25th.May to 3rd.June 1916 Cpl. Plummer, now with 'G' Company 3rd.(Reserve) Battalion London Regiment, attended a Lewis Machine Gun Course at the Machine Gun School, Fovant , and he passed with a Distinguished Certificate. On 7th. July he was attached to 8th. Officer Cadet Battn., Litchfield. He was Appointed a Commission as Temporary 2nd.Lieut.on 25th.October 1916, and posted to the Machine Gun Corps School at Grantham on 8th.November 1916, and his Commission is dated 20th.November 1916. His discharge certificate from 3rd.London Regiment is dated 21st.November 1916, and on this day he also received a congratulatory telegram from the O.C. 'G'Company.



Commission Parchment
Notice of Discharge
from 3rd.London Regt.
Dated 21.11.16
Signed by Capt.
Arthur Clermont



Telegram from O.C. G Company 3rd
(Reserve) Bn. London Regt.



Friday – C22 MESS Harrowby Camp Grantham (MGC School)

My Darling May

Received your letter enclosing one from Maud last night.

Will's luck is astonishing. Fancy getting a 2nd pip dated back to last September when he is the bad books of his C.O. What is he doing at Hotel Gt. Central ?

My field allowance is not through yet. Cannot write more now dear as have a busy day before me & want to catch 9 o/c post this morning to try & make sure you get it before Sunday

Fondest love Your devoted hubby

Fred

Tuesday morning
 Belton
 My darling May,
 I have been unable
 to leave camp for last few
 days. My Company leave
 on Friday night & the rush
 & worry getting everything
 ready is awful.
 Have got permission from
 Company C.O. for an hour
 off after tea today to go down
 to P.O. to send this off
 You must not mind

dear but may not be able
 to write again until Saturday.
 but if can spare a minute
 I will if only a postcard
 Don't think anything
 wrong old dear but once
 Company is away I shall
 be able to make up
 no more now darling
 with fondest love
 Your devoted hubby
 Fred

Tuesday morning
 My Darling May

Belton

I have been unable to leave camp for last few days. My Company leave on Friday night

The rush and worry getting everything ready is awful.

Have got permission from Company C.O. for an hour off after tea today to go down to the P.O. to send this off. You must not mind dear but may not be able to write again until Saturday but if can spare a minute I will if only a postcard.

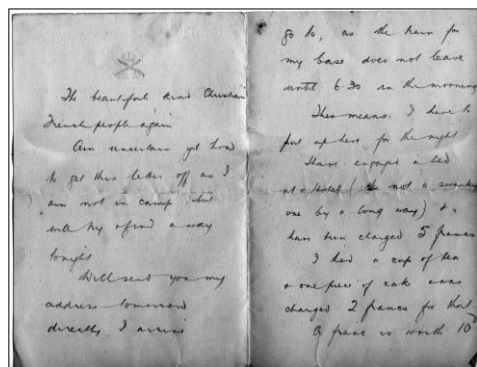
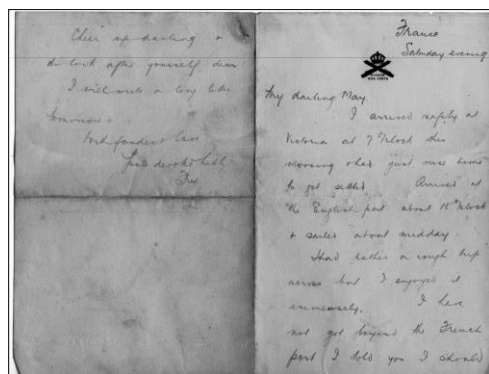
Don't think anything wrong old dear but once Company is away I shall be able to make up

No more now darling

With fondest love

Your devoted hubby

Fred



[215th. Coy. M.G.C. joined 58th. (2/1st. London) Division in France on 21st. March 1917 where it formed part of General Sir Hubert Gough's 5th. Army , XVIII Corps

France

Saturday evening

My Darling May

I arrived safely at Victoria at 7 o'clock this morning & had just more time to get settled. Arrived at the English port about 10 o'clock & sailed about midday. Had rather a rough trip across But I enjoyed it immensely. I have not got beyond the French port I told you I should go to, as the train for my base [Canniers] does not leave until 6.30 in the morning. This means I have to put up here for the night. Have engaged a bed at a Hotel (not a swanky one by a long way) & have been charged 5 Francs. I had a cup of tea & one piece of cake & was charged 2 Francs for that. A Franc is worth 10d. to the beautiful kind Christian French people again. Am uncertain yet how to get this letter off as I am not in camp, but will try & find a way tonight. Will send you my address tomorrow directly I arrive.

Cheer up darling & do look after yourself dear.

I will write a long letter tomorrow

With fondest love

Your devoted hubby

Fred

Plummer disembarked on 25th. August 1917 and proceeded to Base Camp at Cannieres

2nd Lt F C Plummer M.G.C.
A.P.O. S18
M.G.C. Base
B.E.F. France

Sunday

My darling May

Above is my full address
I arrived here this morning just before
9 o'clock. It is a large camp of tents
& within sight of the sea. I do not
expect to be here long as they are
short of Officers at present.
I turned in very early last night
in fact I was in bed before 8.30.
In the afternoon after tea I went
for a look round the town & had a
sit down on the sea front for an hour.
That was the place W.E. paid a
visit to but I don't admire his
taste for it is a God-forsaken & dirty
hole with plenty of "ladies" about.
I understand that we are
only about 7 miles from a fashionable
French seaside resort & will if I
get a chance go over & see it, though

before I go, I expect I shall
not fancy it more than good old
Ramsgate.
I find that here you can
buy tins of Gold Flake cigarettes
50 for 10^sd. That is a change
for in England they were charging
9^s for 50 & it has been 10^sd.
It will be quite alright for
you to address letters here dear
for if I get sent up to the line
the letters will be forwarded on
to me.
We have an Officers Mess here
but of course it is far from a
grand affair. We had a mixture
of bully beef & mutton for dinner
today.
Well I have no more news
darling so will close with fondest
love
Your devoted hubby
Fred

2nd Lt F C Plummer M.G.C.

Sunday

A.P.O. S18

M.G.C. Base

B.E.F. France

My darling May

Above is my full address. I arrived here this morning just before 9 o'clock, It is a large camp tents & within sight of the sea . I do not expect to be *hear* long as they are short of officers at present. I turned in very early last night in fact I was in bed before 8.30. In the afternoon after tea I went for a look round the town & had a sit down on the sea front for an hour. That was the place W.E. paid a visit to but I don't admire his taste for it is a God forsaken & dirty hole with plenty of "ladies" about. I understand that we are only about 7 miles from a fashionable French seaside resort & will if I get a chance go over & see it, though before I go I expect I shall fancy it more than good old Ramsgate. I find that here you can buy tins of Gold Flake cigarettes 50 for 10½d. That is a change for in England they are charging 9d. for 20 & it has been 10d.

It will be quite alright for you to address letters here dear for if I get sent up to the line the letters will be forwarded on to me. We have an Officers Mess here but of course it is far from a grand affair. We had a mixture of bully beef & mutton for dinner today.

Well I have no more news darling so will close with fondest love

Your devoted hubby

Fred

No 215 M.G. Coy
 B E F France
 Wednesday morning
 Darling, Left base yesterday
 morning. Sudden orders
 Am few miles behind
 line. My Company is in
 trenches. May have to
 join them today.
 Do not worry if no
 line for few days darling.
 Am in Belgium.
 Fondest love dearest will
 write earliest opportunity.
 Your devoted hubby
 Fred

No 215 M.G.Coy.

B.E.F. France
 Wednesday morning

Darling,
 Left base yesterday morning. Sudden
 orders.
 Am few miles behind line & my Company is in
 trenches. May have to join them today.
 Do not worry if no line for few days darling. Am
 in Belgium.
 Fondest love dearest will write earliest
 opportunity
 Your devoted hubby

Fred

Plummer joined
 215th..Coy 30.8.1917

Thursday M-215 M. G. Coy.
B E F France

My darling May

You will be glad to know
darling that I am not in trouble
yet after all.

I left the base on Tuesday
morning at 6% & arrived at the
railhead at 9% at night & to
my disgust could not find anyone
who knew the whereabouts of my
Company, so I had a four mile
hump on a pitch black night to
German Headquarters. I saw
a big pot there & he told me
he would show my Co? to find
me my tent up at the railhead
on Wednesday morning at 10% &
that I had better go back to the
railhead for the night & sleep
in the Officers Club. Well off
I started & eventually got back
fully well done up. (Amused)

I had a good nights rest &
in morning I started in van
for east from my Company, but
it failed to turn up, so I left
and then started off to
find them. After about a
6 to 8 mile march I arrived
at a camp of the transport &
to my disgust was informed they
had left 1/2 an hour before for
a new camp nearer the base, so
off I started again & eventually
found them at 2% in afternoon.
The transport officer was a
jolly decent chap & insisted on
me stopping with them & said
he would report for me to the
Company Officer, which he
did do & I had another good
nights rest in spite of a
hellish warm room with Bed
sheets falling down as to be

Comfortable.

At 2% today I left the
transport & moved up to another
camp where half the company are
waiting ready to go into trench
to relief the other half company
who are already in & I am
to stay here tonight & report to
the Company Officer tomorrow.

As you see darling I am
being treated very considerably
& the officers I have met
already are very decent chaps
mailed & did all they could to
make me comfortable.

It is a very warm quarter
here & also damnably wet
windy. Thank goodness
for my field boot & trench coat.
The spirit of the men here
is nothing short of wonderful
& I have of course seen

thousands of troops already &
everywhere are smiling faces &
everyone looks in the best
of condition & strong & lions.

I might interest Bill
Domben to know that I am
attached to the same Brigade
as his 2nd Line Battalion.

I have no more news
at present darling so will
close with tenderest love to
yourself & children & hoping
I shall very shortly be able to
provide you with the necessary
money to get you the mountaineer
you so sorely need. I will not
lose a moment darling & shall
soon sharpen things up

your loving husband
Red

Thursday

No 215 M.G.Coy
B.E.F.
France

My darling May

You will be glad to know darling that I am not in the trenches yet after all.

I left the base on Tuesday morning at 6 o/c & arrived at the railhead at 9 o/c at night & to my disgust could not find anyone who knew the whereabouts of my Company, so I had a four mile tramp on a pitch black night to Division Headquarters. I saw a 'big pot' there & he told me he would wire my Company to pick me & my kit up at the railhead on Wednesday morning at 10 o/c & that I had better go back to the railhead for the night & sleep in the Officers' Club. Well, off I started & eventually got back pretty well done up. Anyhow I had a good nights rest & in morning I waited in vain for cart from my Company, but it failed to show up, so I left my kit there & started off to find them. After about a 6 to 8 mile march I arrived at a camp of their transport & to my disgust was informed that they had left $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour before for a new camp nearer the line so off I started again & eventually traced them at 2 o/c in the afternoon.

The transport officer was a pretty decent chap & insisted on me stopping with them & said he would report for me to the Company office, which he did do & I had another good nights rest in spite of a hellish warm [turn] with Boche shells falling too close to be comfortable.

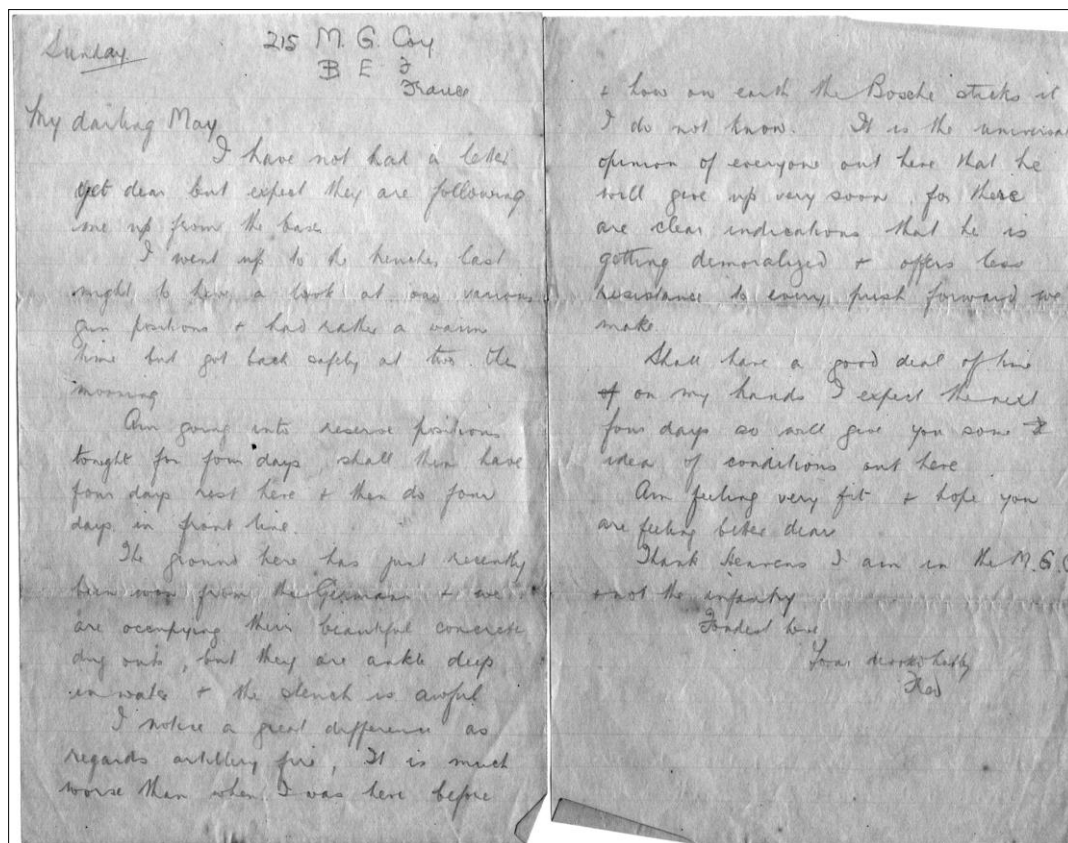
At 2 o/c today I left the transport & moved up to another camp where half the company are waiting ready to go into trenches to relief the other half company already in & I am to stay here tonight & report to the Company Officer tomorrow.

Do you see darling I am being treated very considerably & the officers I have met already are very decent chaps indeed & did all they could to make me comfortable. It is a very warm quarter here & also damnably wet & muddy. Thank goodness for my field boots & trench coat. The spirits of the men here are nothing short of wonderful & I have of course seen thousands of troops already & everywhere are smiling faces & everyone looks in the peak of condition & strong as lions. I It might interest Will Tomlin to know that I am attached to the same Brigade as his 2nd. Line Battalion.

I have no more news at present darling so will close with fondest love to yourself & kiddies & hoping I shall very shortly be able to provide with the necessary money to get the nourishment you so sorely need. I will not lose a moment darling & shall soon straighten things up.

Your loving husband

Fred



Sunday

215 M G Coy
B.E.F. France

My darling May

I have not had a letter yet dear but expect they are following me up from the base. I went up to the trenches last night to have a look at our various gun positions & had rather a warm time but got back safely at two this morning. Am going into reserve positions tonight for four days shall then have four days rest here & then do four days in the front line. The ground here has just recently been won from the Germans & we are occupying their beautiful concrete dug out, but they are ankle deep in water & the stench is awful. I notice a great difference as regards artillery fire. It is much worse than when I was here before & how on earth the Bosche sticks it I do not know. It is the universal opinion of everyone out here that he will give up very soon for there are clear indications that he is getting demoralized & offers less resistance to every push forward we make.

Shall have a good deal of time on my hands, I expect the next four days so will give you some idea of conditions out here.

Am feeling very fit & hope you are feeling better dear.

Thank heavens I am in the M.G.C. & not the infantry

Fondest love

Your devoted hubby

Fred

Tuesday
 My darling May
 Well darling I have not had a letter from you yet, but am hoping to get one this evening.
 As a matter of fact we did not get any mail last night here as there was a series of heavy bombardments & rations & letters could not get up to us. We advanced & captured a post during night & held it against counter attacks. The weather here is fine now and the ground is getting a little dryer.
 Am in an old German concrete dugout which we have captured & it is strong enough but of course the door faces the Germans which is not pleasant.
 We had a very trying time in the fighting last night, the shelling was very heavy & the Bosche used gas shells but we got our helmets on in time & so had no casualties.

greatly upset
 spitefully today
 nearly as bad as he is getting from us. The time goes very slowly being cramped up in this place but it is not safe to move about in the daylight, so we must put up with it.
 It is a very desolate country here, stumps of trees & shell holes (the latter every yard or so) & all houses & farms are knocked flat, just a few bricks to indicate where they used to be.
 Well darling I have no more to say that I can think of at present the conditions being very bad for letter writing so will close with fondest love
 Your devoted hubby
 Fred

Tuesday

My darling May

Well darling I have.....[unit missing - damaged – censorship ?]

Not had a letter from you yet but am hoping to get one this evening.

As a matter of fact we did not get any mail last night here as there was a series of heavy bombardments & rations & letters could not get up to us. We advanced and captured a post during night & held it against counter attacks [Prussian Battalions]. The weather here is fine now and the ground is getting a little dryer. Am in an old German concrete dugout which we have captured & it is strong enough but of course the door faces the Germans which is not pleasant.

We had a very trying time in the fighting last night, the shelling was very heavy & the Bosche used [mustard] gas shells but we got our helmets on in time & so had no casualties.

[letter damaged]greatly upset

.....spitefully today

....nearly as bad as he is getting from us. The time goes very slowly being cramped up in this place but it is not safe to move about in the daylight, so we must put up with it.

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Well darling I have no more to say that I can think of at present the conditions being very bad for letter writing so will close with fondest love

Your devoted hubby

Fred

to catch post. This is
 absolutely the hottest part of
 the line & is simply hell.
 Am under gas practically
 every hour of day & men &
 officers become casualties at
 an alarming rate.
 So far am quite well, but
 nearly done up.
 Am due back in line at
 end of week & there will be
 dirty work happening, so wish
 me luck dear.
 No more now
 With fondest love
 Your devoted hubby
 Fred

Partial letter written on leaf from field note book :

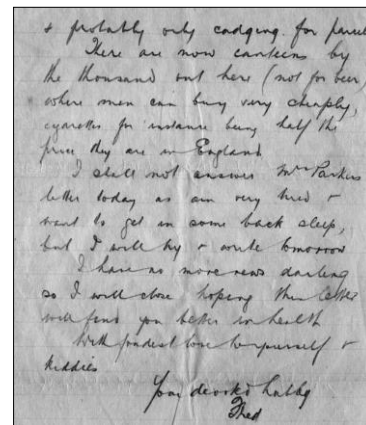
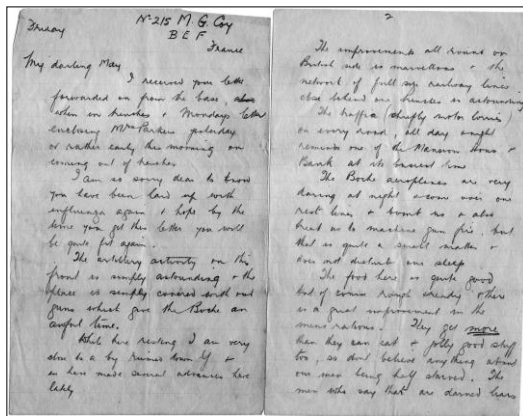
.....to catch post. This absolutely the hottest part of the line & is simply hell.

Am under [mustard] gas practically every hour of day & men & officers become casualties at an alarming rate. So far am quite well but nearly done up. Am due back in line at end of week & there will be dirty work happening, so wish me luck dear

With fondest love

Your devoted hubby

Fred



Friday

No 215 M.G. Coy
B.E.F. France

My darling May,

I received your letter forwarded on from the base when in trenches & Mondays letter enclosing Mrs. Parkins yesterday or rather early this morning coming out of the trenches. I am sorry dear to know you have been laid up with influenza again & I hope by the time you get this letter you will be quite fit again.

The artillery on this front is simply astounding & the place is simply covered with our guns which give the Bosche an awful time.

While here resting I am very close to a big ruined town ..Y...[Ypres] & we have made several advances here lately. The improvements all round on British side are marvellous & the network of full size railway lines close behind our trenches is astounding. The traffic (mostly motor lorries) on every road all day & night reminds me of the Mansion House & Bank at its busiest time.

The Bosche aeroplanes are very daring at night & come over our rest lines & bomb us & also treat us to machine gun fire, but that is quite a small matter & does not disturb our sleep.

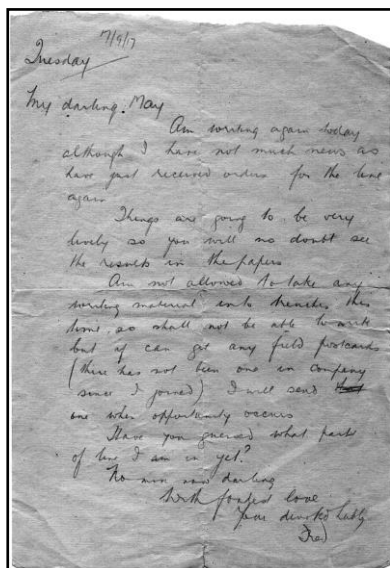
The food here is quite good but of course rough and ready & there is a great improvement in the men's rations. They get more than they can eat & jolly good stuff too, so don't believe anything about our men being half starved. The men who say that are damned liars & probably only cadging for parcels. There are now canteens by the thousand out here (not for beer) where men can buy very cheaply cigarettes for instance being half the price they are in England.

I shall not answer Mrs. Parkins letter today as am very tired & want to get in some back sleep, but I will try and write tomorrow. I have no more news darling so I will close hoping this letter will find you better in health.

With fondest love to you and kiddies

Your devoted hubby

Fred



**2nd.Lieut. Plummer's Last Letter To His Wife
17th.September 1917**

17/9/17

Tuesday

My darling May

Am working again today although I have not much news as have just received orders for the line again.

Things are going to be very lively so you will no doubt see the results in the newspapers.

Am not allowed to take any writing material into trenches this time, so shall not be able to write

But if can get any field postcards (there has not been one in Company since I joined) I will send one when opportunity occurs.

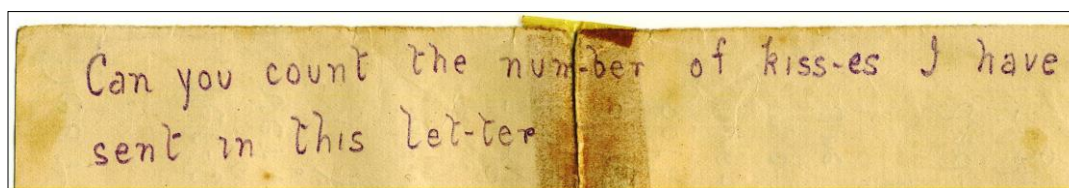
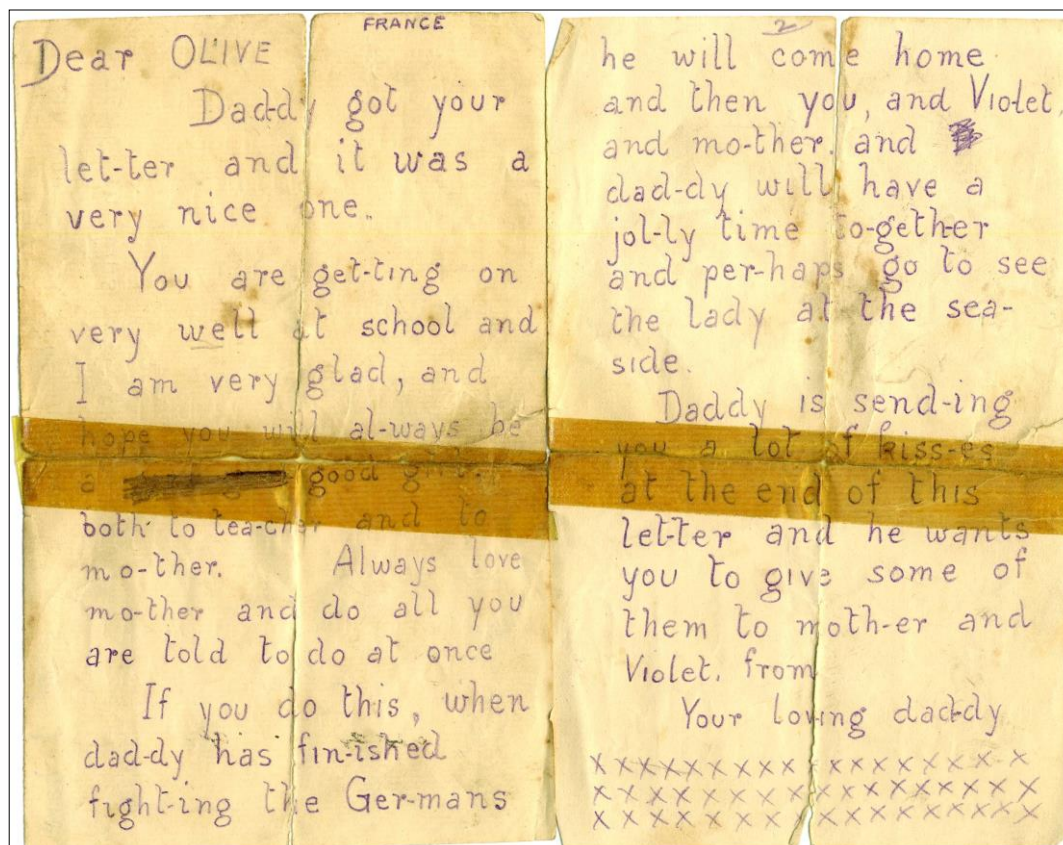
Have you guessed what part of the line I am in yet ? *

No more now darling

Your devoted hubby

Fred

[* Battle of The Menin Road 20th. – 25th.September 1917]



FRANCE

DEAR OLIVE

DADDY GOT YOUR LETTER AND IT WAS A VERY NICE ONE.

YOU ARE GETTING ON VERY WELL AT SCHOOL AND I AM VERY GLAD, AND
HOPE YOU ALWAYS WILL BE A GOOD GIRL BOTH TO TEACHER AND TO MOTHER
ALWAYS LOVE MOTHER AND DO ALL YOU ARE TOLD AT ONCE.

IF YOU DO THIS, WHEN DADDY HAS FINISHED FIGHTING THE GERMANS HE WILL
COME HOME AND THEN YOU AND VIOLET AND MOTHER AND DADDY WILL HAVE
A JOLLY TIME TOGETHER AND PERHAPS GO TO SEE THE LADY AT THE SEASIDE.

DADDY IS SENDING YOU A LOT OF KISSES AT THE END OF THIS LETTER AND
WANTS YOU TO GIVE SOME OF THEM TO MOTHER AND VIOLET.

YOUR LOVING DADDY

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CAN YOU COUNT THE NUMBER OF KISSES I HAVE SENT IN THIS LETTER

2nd.Lieut. Plummer's Letter to his daughter – Received
after his death

24.9.17 215 MGCoy
BEF
FRANCE.

Dear Mrs Plummer,

I was this evening the recipient of very distressing news and it is with profound regret that I report that your husband was killed in action on the evening of yesterday 23rd inst at about 7 PM. It is fruitless for me to try and express the feelings of his brother officers regarding the loss of their comrade. Although your husband had been with us such a short time he had proved his worth both officially and socially.

Owing to certain circumstances it was necessary for your husband to change places with one of his brother officers and during the walk from one position to the other he was unfortunate enough to come under enemy shellfire, and received mortal wounds in the head and body. His death was instantaneous I'm sure and he could have felt no pain whatever. His body has been brought down and buried in a cemetery behind the line the exact position of which may be obtained from the Graves Registration Committee.

I am in possession of all his personal effects which shall be sent to you as soon as possible. Please try and realise that your husband died a most honourable death, and I trust that that thought will help you in your grief.

Please accept the condolence of all officers and men of the company and believe me

Very faithfully yours
C B FELTON Lt & Adj.

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Very faithfully yours
C B FELTON Lt & Adj.

From W. C. B. Williams CF.
 Att. 2/XI London Regt.
 B.E.F.
 29.9.17 France
 Dear Mrs Plummer
 As Chaplain I officiated
 at the funeral of your late husband
 Lieut. Plummer & I am just
 writing you a little note to tell
 you of my deep sympathy for you &
 my remembrance of you in my prayers;
 All our sympathy is with you in
 your great bereavement. Your
 husband died doing his duty
 as a good Soldier in a good cause
 & we cannot doubt he is in God's

keeping. It may be a comfort to
 you to know that his body was
 brought down from the line &
 buried in a cemetery where many
 of his comrades are buried & his
 grave will be tended & cared for.
 Sincerely yours
 W. C. B. Williams

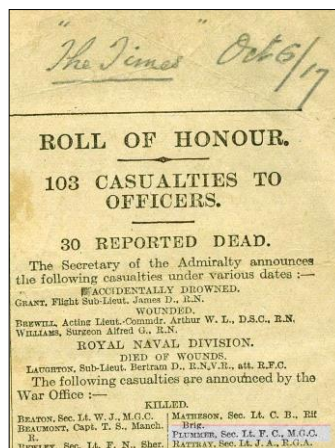
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Sincerely yours
 W C B Williams



**Identity Tag of 3105 Cpl. F.C.Plummer
3rd.London Regt.T.F.**

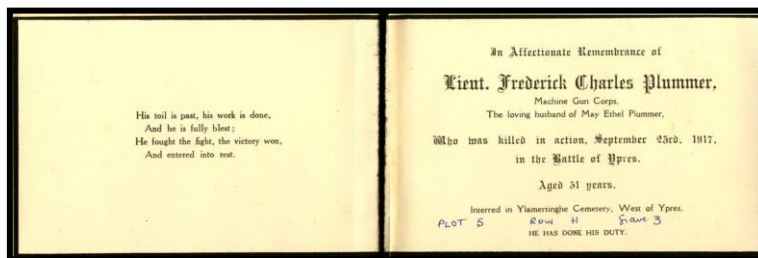


‘THE TIMES’ 6th.October 1917



In Affectionate Remembrance of
Lieut. Frederick Charles Plummer
Machine Gun Corps
The loving husband of Ethel May Plummer

Who was killed in action, September 23rd. 1917
In the Battle of Ypres
Aged 31 years
Interred in Ylamertinghe Cemetery, West of Ypres
Plot 5 Row H Grave 3
HE HAS DONE HIS DUTY

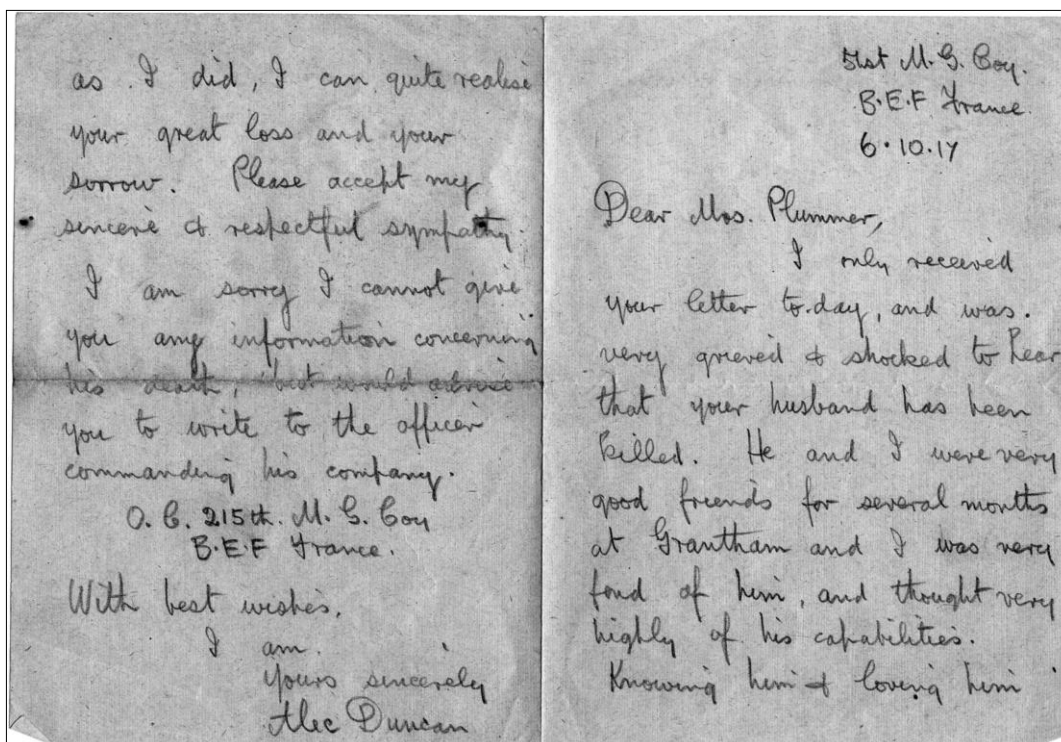


IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

Received from Mrs. M. Plummer
 the sum of 12/6
 in payment of 46 letters at 3/6 per letter,
 for engraving the personal inscription of the headstone of F.C. Plummer M.G.C.
M. Plummer
 For IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.
 Date.....19

No. 51672

Mrs. Plummer's receipt for headstone
inscription



51st M.G. Coy
B.E.F. France
6.10.17

Dear Mrs Plummer

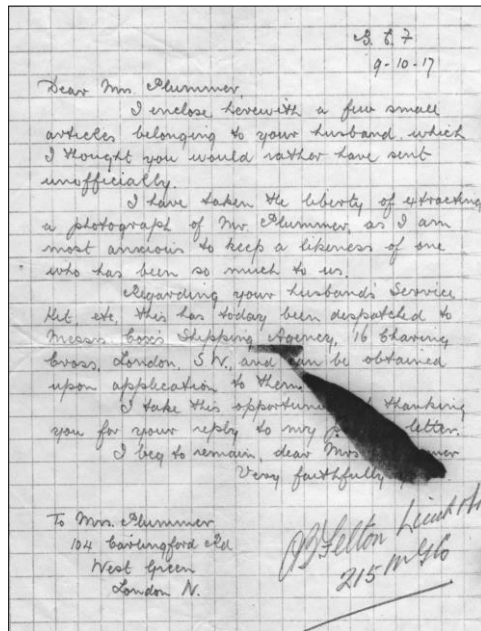
I only received your letter today, and was shocked to hear that your husband has been killed. He and I were very good friends for several months at Grantham and I was very fond of him, and thought highly of his capabilities. Knowing him & loving him as I did, I can quite realise your great loss and your sorrow. Please accept my sincere and respectful sympathy.

I am sorry I cannot give you any information concerning his death, but I would advise you to write to the officer commanding his company

O.C. 215th.M.G. Company
B.E.F. France

With best wishes

I am yours sincerely
Alec Duncan



B.E.F.
9.10.17

Dear Mrs. Plummer

I enclose herewith a few small articles belonging to your husband, which I thought you would rather have sent unofficially.

I have taken the liberty of extracting a photograph of Mr. Plummer as I am most anxious to keep a likeness of one who has meant so much to us.

Regarding your husband's service kit etc., this has today been despatched to Messrs. Cox's Shipping Agency, 16 Charing Cross London SW and can be obtained upon application to them.

I take this opportunity in thanking you for your reply to my previous letter.

I beg to remain, dear Mrs Plummer

Very faithfully yours

C B FELTON Lt & Adj
215 MGC

To Mrs Plummer
104 Carlingford Road
London N

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

If the Receiver of an Island Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 3d. being reckoned as 3d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetitions will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

War Office

Charge to pay { s. d. }
 Handed in at { s. d. } Received here at { s. d. }

TO { Mrs Plummer 104 Earlsford Rd
 West Green Surrey
 Deeply regret to inform you
 that Mr Plummer M.C. has killed
 in action Sept Twenty Third
 The Army Council expresses their
 sympathies Secretary War Office

**War Office Telegram
Dated 27th. September 1917**

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

If the Receiver of an Island Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 3d. being reckoned as 3d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetitions will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Buckingham Palace

Charge to pay { s. d. }
 Handed in at { s. d. } Received here at { s. d. }

TO { Mrs Plummer 104 Earlsford Rd
 West Green Surrey
 The King and Queen deeply
 regret the loss you and
 the army have sustained by
 the death of your husband
 in the service of his
 country their majesties truly
 sympathise with you in
 your sorrow the Privy Purse

**Buckingham Palace Telegram
Dated 5th. October 1917**

Miss Violet Plummer recollected that “Mother collapsed to the floor upon receipt of the telegram notifying of her my father’s death, and I, aged 5 years, ran to a next door neighbour for help.”

159085/3. (C.3.A.L.)



CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

Certified that, according to the records of this
Office Temporary Second Lieutenant FREDERICK CHARLES
PLUMMER, Machine Gun Corps, was killed in action either in
France or in Belgium on the 23rd day of September, 1917.

for the Secretary, War Office.

Dated at the War Office, London,

this 17th day of October, 1917.

Certificate of Death
Dated 17th.October 1917

M/159085 / 3 (Accounts 4)

The following is a true copy of a Will which was executed by
the late Second Lieutenant C.F. Plummer, Machine
Gun Corps,
while in actual Military service within the meaning of the Wills Act,
1837, and is therefore recognized as valid by the War Department.

14

W I L L.

In the event of my
death, I give the
whole of my property and
effects to my wife
May Ethel Plummer

Frederick C. Plummer

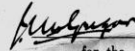
Corporal No 3105

3rd London Regt

R.F.

May 12th 1915

Certified,



for the Assistant Financial Secretary.

War Office, S.W.1.

**Last Will & Testament of Frederick Charles
Plummer**



War Office (A.G. 10.)
27, Pilgrim Street
London, E.C.4
29th April 1921

Madam,

I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying
"1914-15 Star, British War & Victory Medals"
which would have been conferred upon

2nd Lieutenant F.C. Plummer,
had he lived, in memory of his services with the
British Forces during the Great War.

In forwarding the Decorations I am commanded
by the King to assure you of His Majesty's high
appreciation of the services rendered.

I am to request that you will be so good as to
acknowledge the receipt of the Decorations on the
attached form.

Mrs F.C. Plummer. I am, Madam,
101, Carlingford Road. Your obedient servant,
West Green,
N.15.

P. H. W. Macdonogh
Adjutant-General.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

I join with my grateful people
in sending you this memorial
of a brave life given for others
in the Great War.

George R.I.

LETTER OF BESTOWAL OF WAR MEDALS
ACCOMPANYING

SLIP



**CLOTH SHOULDER TITLE, MEDALS &
MEMMORIAL PLAQUE
FREDERICK CHARLES PLUMMER
3rd.London Regiment T.F. & Machine Gun Corps**

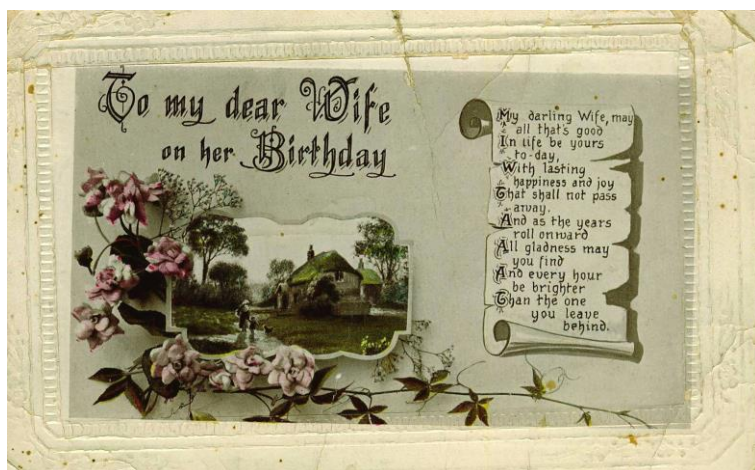


HE whom this scroll commemorates
was numbered among those who,
at the call of King and Country, left all
that was dear to them, endured hardness,
faced danger, and finally passed out of
the sight of men by the path of duty
and self-sacrifice, giving up their own
lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it
that his name be not forgotten.

*2/Lieut. Frederick Charles Plummer
Machine Gun Corps*

THE KING'S MEMORIAL SCROLL



Birthday Postcard to Mrs. Plummer - undated



SILK POSTCARD TO MRS. PLUMMER -



IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

Any further communication on this
subject should be addressed to—
"THE SECRETARY,"
and the following number quoted:
CCM/73365.

82, BAKER STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

25th July, 1922.

Madam,

With reference to your letter of the 18th instant, in which you apply for a photograph of the grave of Second Lieutenant F.C. Plummer, I am to inform you that, as was announced in the newspapers, further applications for photographs of graves in the various theatres of war cannot be considered. In case you have not seen the notice referred to, I enclose herewith a copy for your information.

1...

I am given to understand that the Secretary, Y.M.C.A., 13, Russell Square, London, W.C. is willing to obtain photographs of war graves in this area.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

Andersson

for Principal Assistant Secretary.

Mrs M.E. Plummer,
Womersley House,
Dickenson Road,
Crouch Hill, N.8.

The Secretary of the War Office announces that the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries is unable to receive any further applications for photographs of Graves in the various theatres of war, but that it is hoped that the requests already received will be completed before the close of the present year.

The work of photography was originally undertaken by the Directorate owing to the prohibition on military grounds of the use of private cameras in France, and as otherwise relatives would have had no other means of obtaining a photograph of a grave. The Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John have generously provided sufficient funds for the purpose of supplying the cameras and the material required, but contributions from these funds ceased on the 1st October, 1919. Moreover, as there is now no prohibition on the taking of photographs, the necessity for the work done by the military photographers attached to the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries no longer exists.

Since the work was undertaken, 185,000 photographs taken in France and Belgium and 2,500 photographs taken in other theatres of war have been supplied to relatives. The outstanding requests that have still to be dealt with number 36,795.

War Office,
16th March, 1920.

**IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
LETTER
&**