

FILE :- CAPTAIN P.H. RAWSON MC. RAMC.

This file contains a total of 306 letters recording the correspondence of Captain P.H. Rawson MC with Mary Elizabeth Funnival (fiancé and later, wife). The letters were written from the Western Front while Medical Officer with, successively, 8th South Staffordshire Regiment, 5th Field Ambulance, 2/3rd West Riding Field Ambulance and 2/5th Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry between 9/2/15 and 15/12/17. In addition there are 13 miscellaneous documents concerning P.H. Rawson and Mary Rawson some of which relate to 1914-18 period.

The letters are principally valuable as a record of a loving and romantic relationship between two people over a prolonged period of enforced separation due to war. In almost every letter there are expressions of love and longing and terms of endearment. The letters record their relationship develop through engagement, marriage and the expectation of their first child.

The following notes examine each letter and pull out details of historical interest. Where this is significant enough to record in 'General Aspects' it is marked in red and is summarised on a separate sheet under the various 'General Aspect' headings. A number written in pencil on both envelope and letter corresponds to the notes to allow quick reference to the original letters. An attempt has been made also to indicate

the continuity of his experience by saying whether Captain Rawson is in the front line, in support, in rest, in training or travelling.

The letters reflect Captain Rawson's rather conventional writing style and the need to avoid the censors pen. Hence they tend to follow a standard mode of which the following is typical.

- ① Thanks for parcels/letters/food/clothing/cigarettes/photos etc
- ② I have sent/received so many letters
- ③ Requests to pass on regards to family + friends
- ④ Enquiries about family + friends
- ⑤ Brief news about his activities mostly of a general nature
- ⑥ Longing for leave + constant references to it and the consequent frustrations + boredom
- ⑦ References to his relationship with Mary Fumwal and the attitudes of her parents to this relationship.
- ⑧ Loving sentiment, terms of endearment and expressions of love + longing.

DONOR:- Nicholas Rawson, son of Philip Hugh and Mary Elizabeth Rawson.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

- ① Document of Commission appointing Philip Hugh Rawson the rank of Lieutenant in the R.A.M.C. dated 5th January 1915.
- ② Birth Certificate of Phillip Hugh Rawson
- ③ Baptism Certificate of Phillip Hugh Rawson
- ④ Marriage Certificate of Phillip Hugh Rawson to Mary Elizabeth Furnival.
- ⑤ Death Certificate of Phillip Hugh Rawson.
- ⑥ Field Service Postcard dated 27/6/16 from P.H. Rawson to Mary Furnival.
- ⑦ 2 Picture postcards (unwritten) of the Basilica in Albert.
- ⑧ Character reference from Sir George Allen K.C.V.O given to P.H. Rawson.
- ⑨ Invitation from His Majesty Haile Selassie I to P.H. Rawson to attend a Reception on 6th May 1944.
- ⑩ Birth Certificate of Mary Elizabeth Furnival.
- ⑪ V.A.D. Certificate of Enrolment for Mary E. Furnival
- ⑫ British Red Cross Society Certificate of Mary Furnival.
- ⑬ A photograph of Phillip Hugh Rawson M.C. R.A.M.C and Mary Elizabeth Rawson (nee Furnival) on their honeymoon February 1917.

LETTER NO.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
1	9/2/15	PH Rawson Bovington Camp, Dorset	Mary Furnival Handforth, Cheshire	<p>..a slight epidemic of scarlet fever... in the camp amongst the Lincolns.</p> <p>→ Health/Fitness/Disease</p>
2	14/2/15	" "	" "	<p>On regimental notepaper - 7th (Service) Bn Lincolnshire Regiment.</p> <p><u>"We are in quarantine for scarlet fever so am very busy"</u></p> <p><u>"9 cases so far."</u> → Health/Fitness/Disease.</p>
3	29/3/15	" "	" "	<p>On regimental notepaper - 7th (Service) Bn Lincolnshire Regiment.</p> <p>"We have not as yet been made Captains though it appeared in the papers. I think it must only apply to the regular R.A.M.C. men and not to Kitcheners Army."</p>
4	12/5/15	PH Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt. B.E.F.	" "	<p>Field PO + censor marks.</p> <p>"endless numbers of sick + otherwise, and a few casualties"</p> <p>The author may have misdated this letter. The letter may date from 1916 and not 1915.</p>
5	7/6/15	PH Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt. Winchester	" "	<p>On Regimental notepaper 8th (Service) Bn South Staffs Regiment</p> <p>N.H.I.</p>
6	11/7/15	" "	" "	<p>On Regimental notepaper. 8th (Service) Bn. South Staffs Regiment.</p> <p>"..Tuesday or Wednesday going to France"...</p>

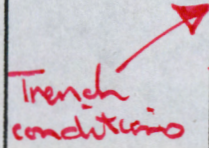
LETTER No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
7	21/7/15	PH Rawlinson BEF 8th South Staffs.	Mary Furnival	Field P.O. and censor marks. 8th South Staffs notepaper. "...." within sound of the guns at last. I saw two aeroplanes having a scrap the other evening; most interesting".... Marching towards the front line
8	24/7/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor marks. 8th South Staffs notepaper "...We 'hit the trail tomorrow' and expect to get nearer the guns. Quite a lot of our men have had sort of day trips up to the front to give them an idea how things are managed." "How long do letters take to reach you; yours seem to take about four days!"
9	2/8/15	" "	Mary Furnival Anglesey	Field P.O. cancellation. Active Service envelope. "There are a large number of guns round us".... "The Germans had their morning straffe + sent six shells near us"....
10	7/8/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations "Moved to a place of greater safety about eight miles from the trenches and can only hear the big guns now".... "The weather is still very bad, it is pretty rough for us so it must be terrible for the men."
11	11/8/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and Censor cancellations "Crowds of aeroplanes dashing about so I suppose there will be more trouble tonight."

LETTER No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
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12	15/8/15	P.H. Rawson BEF 8th South Staffs. Regt.	Mary Farnival Anglesey	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations.</p> <p>... "we have had nothing but rows in the Bathn. since we have been here. We go into the trenches tonight." "Our dressing station is in a rather lively corner; nothing but spent rifle bullets and shells." "<u>There are a lot of men feigning illness today to escape going with us....</u> <u>Health/Fitness/Disease</u></p>
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13	23/8/15	" "	Mary Farnival Hemel Hempstead Cheshire	<p>Field P.O. cancellation on Active Service envelope.</p> <p>"I believe we go out (of trenches) next Sunday after spending fourteen days in." ... "Not many casualties but a lot of sickness" "<u>Went all round the Brigade trenches; took us seven hours + we were up to our knees in water + slush in several places.</u> They wizz-bombed us down one trench and of course we retired gracefully into a dug-out." ... "We are not in a dug-out, but in a ruined brewery about 1000 yds from the firing trench; get all the spent bullets.</p> <p>My "letters take two days to get to you" "We seldom get to bed before 2 am. and then are frequently fetched out again and then we are expected to go round the trenches every day and it takes four hours." "We are surrounded by huge batteries and they seem to be at it all day."</p> <p>Photo enclosed of two ladies taken in the UK?</p>
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Trench conditions



LETTER NO.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
14	29/8/15	P.H. Rawson B.E.F. 8th South Staff Regt.	Mary Furnival Handforth Cheshire <i>Rumours + Spies.</i>	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. "I have done nothing but eat and sleep since we came out of the trenches. I believe we are out for eight days and then go in for eight"... <u>"There are said to be a lot of spies about so we hold everybody up and ask their name and business."</u>
15	2/9/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. "We proceed again to the trenches on Saturday".....
16	2/9/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations "We return to the trenches on Saturday"... "There was a big straffe on last night for about three hours."
17	3/9/15	" "	" " <i>Attitudes: Joining up / Patriotism.</i>	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. "Into the trenches again tomorrow for eight days." <u>"I had a letter today from an old hospital friend. He says he has joined for home service only. I think he is a bit of a coward, anyway its an awful scandal he should get the same pay as we folks out here"</u> "Quite a crowd on my Side Parade this morning all hoping to get off their trip in the trenches"....
18	24/9/15	" "	" " <i>Under Bombardment</i>	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. <u>"... not many casualties but so much straffing + it gets slightly on ones nerves. They are just at present wizz-banging our immediate vicinity".... "The bally Bosches seem to follow us round with all sorts of things, trench mortars, rifle grenades"....</u>

Health/Fitness/Cleanliness/Disease

LETTER No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
18 (cont...)	24/9/15	P.H. Rowson 8th South Staffs B.F.	Mary Furnival Handforth Cheshire	cont..... "Have spent the morning going round the village taking samples from pumps and wells." "I enclose a bit of aeroplane shell picked up in the dressing station" → Souvenirs.
19	22/9/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. "Everything is just the same in the trenches; shells + bullets then bullets and shells." "Had an officer in last night with a peach of a blighty, just through his right thigh, he got just outside so we were nice and handy to patch it up." → Wounds/Wounded.
20	26/9/15	" " Bombardment	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. "They have been busy with banging the dump i.e. where all the rations and mails are deposited at night. We had the first casualty among the M.O's yesterday.... he was killed outright by a stray bullet." "One man gets killed and everyone wonders next day what the new man if any will be like - don't think me callous dear" Attitudes-Morbidly. This letter includes a postcard of a hops plant and marked Poperinghe. It is addressed to a M.R. Decerninck, brasseur, Voormezeele and postmarked Poperinghe, 4th October.
21	27/9/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations "We have had few casualties and they have been either very severe or very slight." The writer hopes to be leaving the trenches "tomorrow".

LETTER No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
22	2/10/15	P.H. Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt. B.E.F.	Mossy Furnival Handforth Cheshire.	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations,</p> <p>"We have 'hit the trail' again and have gone further North to some fresh trenches. They are not very nice ones as the Bosches are only 15 yds away in some places".... "The weather has improved and the mud and wet is not much over the top of ordinary boots"..... "The Bosches gave us rather a warm reception when we came in".... <u>"The people are very optimistic if they think the Bosches will be driven the other side of the Rhine by Xmas."</u></p> <p><u>"We heard the other day that about 60 submarines had been accounted for."</u> Rumours.</p> <p>The writer is sharing accommodation with the "Headquarters people" and "they are treating me very well." He explains there is no chance of leave yet.</p> <p><u>"I extracted a bullet from a man this morning. It had been reversed in the cartridge to make a bigger wound."</u> - Wounds.</p> <p><u>The writer suggests marriage for the first time in this letter. Not a direct proposal!! "Don't you think its a rather good idea!"</u></p>
23	3/10/15	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations.</p> <p>Explains there is a rumour they may leave the trenches and move further south to "see a bit of fun and not this rotten trench fighting."</p>

Attitudes to British Civilians

Loving Relationships



LETTER No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
24	7/10/15	Pt. Ranson SFR South Stuffs Rest BES	Mary Furnwell, Hendlington, Cheshire.	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations on Regiments envelope.</p> <p>The writer is billeted in a farmhouse after marching about 15 miles ... very glad to get out of that hot lot of trenches, it was a wretched place, the poor old dressing station was always going through it" Explains there will be no leave until Xmas.</p>
25	8/10/15	" " " "	" " " "	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations on Regiments envelope.</p> <p>The author is in a good billet a long way from the trenches, "We can only just hear the guns" The author asks Mary Furnwell for permission to write to her</p> <p>Get her to ask if they may get engaged.... "and when I get leave don't you think darling we could get married"... "I don't see any use waiting do you? The war may go on for years."</p>
26	10/10/15	" " " "	" " " "	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations on regimental envelope.</p> <p>The writer is billeted in a farmhouse "There is quite a lot of sidness amongst the troops and I have to send about three men away everyday." "I still get on very well with everyone but the C.O., however, we hit it off better than we did..."</p>
27	11/10/15	" " " "	" " " "	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations.</p> <p>"There is very little doing here. Had a case of S.F. (Scarlet fever), caused great excitement..."</p> <p>The writer is still in billets "...and nice and easy it is."</p> <p>Two new Subalterns have joined the regiment</p>
28	13/10/15	" " " "	" " " "	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations</p> <p>The writer has been in France for three months. "Seems more like three years. I do wish it was all over. All leave is cancelled I hear for some time..." He is still billeted in the farmhouse: "The weather is glorious. I go for a walk after tea nearly every evening. We can only hear the big guns off here there might be no war on at all."</p>

Living Relationships

Walter Sidener's Quartermaster / Divorce

LETTER NO	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
29	14/10/15	PH Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt. B.F.	Mary Furrival Hamdforth Cheshire	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations</p> <p><u>A letter full of endearments and loving sentiments prompted by, presumably, a letter from Mary Furrival giving permission for the writer to ask her father for permission to marry.</u></p> <p><u>"I am writing to your father today and if he doesn't object I will get the Goldsmiths people to send you a crowd of rings to choose from..."</u></p> <p><u>The writer is still billeted in a farmhouse "There seems to be quite a lot of sickness about, quite a number of men..... including some officers."</u></p>
30	17/10/15	"	"	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations on regimental stationery.</p> <p><u>Loving sentiments and endearments with references to a letter sent to Mary Furrival's father. The author is still billeted in a farmhouse behind the lines. He refers to a man injured while walking in his sleep. A route march is planned and he is expecting a lot of men on 'sick' parade.</u></p>
31	18/10/15	"	"	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations on regimental stationery.</p> <p><u>The writer is hoping for leave soon "Do you think we shall be able to get married at Christmas"...</u></p>
32	18/10/15	"	"	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations on regimental stationery.</p> <p><u>The writer is expecting a weeks leave in December. He is still billeted in a farmhouse well behind the lines. Three new officers have arrived.... "from the 8th battalion which is in Jersey"</u></p>
33	21/10/15	"	"	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations; regimental notepaper.</p> <p><u>The writer has left his billet for the lines but is uncertain about his destination.... "The usual army methods being used. You really never saw or heard of such a lot of wet hens, most of them are not fit to run a Punch and Judy show much less play about with</u></p>

Loving Relationships

Health/Sickness Cleanliness/Disease.

Loving Relationships.

Attitudes - High Command + conduct of War.

LETTER No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
33 cont...	21/10/15	PH Rowson 8th South Staffs Regt BEF	Mary Furnival Handforth Cheshire.	cont.... <u>battalions."</u> ... "We could hear the machine guns and rifles quite plainly last night."
34	24/10/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations This letter records the writers Division (17th) for the first time. <u>Endearments and loving sentiments and a second request to get married by Xmas.</u> "I have been all round the trenches this morning; takes about seven hours."
35	26/10/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. "We have had few casualties so far, but a good deal of sickness. The men have started leave. One man per day, take about two and a half years at that rate!" <u>The writer has had a non-committal letter from Mary's father about marriage but nevertheless....</u> "I have sent off for some (engagement) rings... They should send you some to choose from in a week..." <u>"I cannot understand anyone wish (sic) to speak to a d - Bosche after the murder of Miss Cavell and heaps of things much worse."</u> <u>"A bosch aeroplane flew up and down today and then sent out some white smoke after they had shelled a wood close to us and there were six casualties."</u> "I believe we leave these trenches on Friday. I trust we get out all right. They so often shell the reliefs. They seem to get to know about them."

Loving Relationships.

Loving Relationships

Attitudes toward Germans

Artillery / Aircraft Co-operation

LETTER No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
36	28/10/15	PH. Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt BEF.	Mary Furnival Hamdforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. "I think I shall manage a transfer alright in a few days. We had quite a bust-up at H.Q., the 2nd in command and myself; so in the heat of wrath we both sent a report to the Brigade." "my dugout is leaking all over, and the dressing station hopeless." <u>"They shelled us very heavily yesterday. It makes one feel such an absolute worm and so helpless."</u> Under Bombardment
37	30/10/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations The writer has just left the trenches ... "had a very rough time, not many casualties but a lot of trouble in the way of shells etc." The writer is expecting 8 days rest before returning to the line <u>Endearments and loving sentiments.</u> Loving Relationships
38	31/10/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations <u>Endearments and loving sentiments ...</u> "Darling I got a letter from the ring merchants today, I do hope you have got what you like, the only thing that troubles me is that I am unable to be with you when you choose it. I was longing to put it on for you." The writer is in rest camp though ... "we occasionally get shells in the neighbourhood."
39	1/11/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. The writer is still in rest camp, leave is postponed due to men failing to return from their allocated leave. I have settled my "straffe" and am going to stay in the same regiment" - referring to a longstanding disagreement with a senior officer.

Loving Relationships

Under Bombardment

LETTER No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
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40	3/11/15	P.H Ranson 81R South Staffs Regt. B.E.F.	Mary Furnival Handforth Cheshire	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. The writer is still in rest camp. "There is little to do in rest camp and still less when it rains." <u>Endearments and loving sentiments</u> Loving Relationships
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41	4/11/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. The writer is still in rest camp. "There are lots of aeroplanes about, so I suppose there will be a bit of a staff on." The writer suggests obtaining a special licence for the wedding when next on leave.
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42	5/11/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. The writer will travel 12 miles back to the same trenches the next day. "...the men are just about done up by the time they get there." "There were two Bocke planes brought down yesterday." The writer has given a lecture on the care of feet.
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43	7/11/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. and censor cancellations. The writer is expecting to move to new trenches from the rest camp soon. It is the fifth lot of trenches he will have been to. <u>"When I think of all the married men out here with 2 or 3 kids it seems just about the limit that a single fellow even if he is an only son should not come out too."</u> Attitudes - Joining up / Patriotism. Endearments and loving sentiments.
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44	8/11/15	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt Ranson receives bad news about leave entitlement. Still expecting to move to new trenches "I wonder... what they are like. They cannot be much worse than the last that is one comfort." The writer had a bath ... "getting the dirt of months off." <u>They have just had a subs' court martial + I was asked to attend to give medical advice + also to paint a picture on the prisoners chest with Iodine. It went off rather well + was quite amusing for all but the prisoner</u>
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* Humour! ~~Court Martial~~

No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
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45.	9/11/15	PH. Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt. B.E.F.	Mary Furnival Hamforth Cheshire	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations.</p> <p>Captain Rawson is to go back into the trenches today. "I wonder what the new Dressing Station will be like"... Just completed twelve days rest out of the line.</p> <p>"I wish I had been with you when you got your (engagement) ring, my darling, as you know you did not choose the most expensive one. I do hope you like it. I think it must suit you very well"</p> <p>Capt. Rawson is expecting leave in December/January.</p> <p>I had a medical inspection of the bath... one company was quite good but the others were what they call "very chatty"....</p> <p>..."The only real hardship is being away from little girls at home, nobody of course cares much about being shot at either; still you can get used to that."</p> <p>"I expect you have heard of the Cloth Hall, go past it tomorrow so now you should guess where we are"</p> <p>P.S. Thank you so much for Punch the last two numbers have been very good indeed."</p>
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Loving Relationships

Health/Fitness/Cleanliness + Disease

Censorship example of breach of censor rules.

46.	14/11/15	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations.</p> <p>Capt. Rawson has moved back to the front. He complains about the cramped + leaking conditions in his dugout.</p> <p>All leave is cancelled.</p> <p>"It looks as though we shall have to put off getting married if your people are so much against it" "I get an awful lot of walking to do here as I run two dressing stations, one used for emergencies + the other as a regular place."</p>
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HISTORICAL INTEREST

No.	DATE	FROM	TO
47	17/11/15	PT Rawson 8R South Staffs Regt. BEF.	Mary Funnial Hundforth Cheshire.

~~Field P.O. and censor cancellations~~
 "We have had it horribly cold and they won't give us much coke. It must be absolute hell in the fire trench."
 "This is not a nice place - too much straffing..."
 "There has been a good deal of sickness amongst the Tommies, but I suppose one must expect it with them over the waist in water in some of the trenches."
 "Did I tell you I was hit in the back when we came into these trenches; only a very small bit and it did not even hurt my coat"

Trench conditions

48	19/11/15	" "	" "
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Field P.O. and censor cancellations
 Capt. Rawson has just left the trenches after a very busy time.
 "We had some 20 odd casualties, fortunately none amongst the officers. I also saw about three times as many from other regiments; my dressing station being very central, and as for sick - the weather was so awful that they seemed to roll up by hundreds...
 "... got badly straffed no less than three times and on several occasions was up to the waist in mud. Took me 3/4 hour one day to go 200 yds + was nearly dead at the end of it. I ran two dressing stations, one in the fire trench + the other in an old mill about 1000 yds away on a road. One company was practically isolated by day, I got up to it one day to see two cases..."

Trench Conditions

Censor:

Capt. Rawson refers again to the Cloth Hall (Ypres). Remainder of letter consists of loving sentiment + endearments.

Loving Relationships

No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
49	21/11/15	Pt Rawson 81R South Staffs Regt B.E.F.	Mary Furnival Hamforth Cheshire Trench Feet Accident	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations</p> <p><u>Capt Rawson apologises for not writing... "I really had no time, we had so many casualties + sick. There were nine men with trench feet, which seems to be a quite new disease - sort of frost bite."</u></p> <p>"We go back to the trenches on Wednesday - shortened our time from eight days to six and six is quite long enough."</p> <p>Capt. Rawson has signed on for another year in the army... "seemed to me to be the only thing to do. We really get a very soft time in comparison to the Tommies..." "I was quite pleased with myself this time; did some really good work + saved quite a few lives. There was a nasty accident in camp yesterday, the Adjutant was playing about with a live shell + blew the best part of one side of his face away."</p> <p><u>loving sentiments + endearments</u></p>
50	22/11/15	" " " "	" " Lice	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations</p> <p><u>...rather busy today examining the people with little creatures on them.. The Tommies call it being chatty"</u>. Capt. Rawson is expecting to return to the trenches soon for a 3 week period "The big guns have been going all day. I believe the Boches blew a mine up the day after we came out..." "I almost prefer the trenches, more exciting than a rest camp."</p> <p><u>loving sentiments + endearments</u> - <u>Loving Relationships</u></p>
51	23/11/15	" " " "	" "	<p>Field P.O. and censor cancellations</p> <p>capt. Rawson talks about possible leave in early December.</p> <p><u>loving sentiments + endearments</u> - <u>loving relationships</u></p>

No	DATE	FROM	TO
52	26/11/15	Pt. Rawson 8th Supt 5th Fys Regt. BEF	Mary - Furnival Hendforth Cheshire
53	14/12/15	" " Boulogne Conducting of.	" " " Drafts -
54	26/12/15	Pt Rawson 5th Field Ambulance BEF	Mary - Furnival The Mead Hendforth Cheshire.
55	29/12/15	" " " Bombardment	" " " Under Bombardment

↑ note Rose
↑ two times

HISTORICAL INTEREST

Field P.O. + censor cancellations,
 Capt. Rawson apologises for not writing. "we had rather a lot of cancellations"
 + I had to go up to the fire trench to see a case "... an exciting trip."
 "... over the coast in mud + water in most places..." "Take me on
 leave + 3/14 to get up from the dressing station."
 Leave is now expected 1st or 2nd week in December,
 Capt. Rawson is currently billeted in an old flour mill.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
 Later send as Capt. Rawson returns to his unit after leave,
 On arrival at Boulogne Desros given command of a mixed battalion
 + had to march from 3 miles to a rest camp.
 Next time I get leave we must get married "having sentiments
 + endearments. having relationships.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations,
Food / Food Parcels.
 Letter from home + turkey + fresh lobster. The Padre is holding a
 service " + actually went to see the men in the trenches last night"
 "Not much doing today; a bit of a bombardment this morning + a
 few shells dropped in our neighbourhood"

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
 "I am going to have a fine thought of your letters as they are really too
 many of them to carry about with me. You won't think me an awful
 pig will you dear, "... sending tons of big stuff over; I wish at
 least also there is numbers of good again. "... I expect I will go
 back to my old battalion very soon."

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
 "I am still in the collar of our A.P.S. + so far have had little to do. Everything
 is so quiet" having sentiments + endearments.
Learning Relationships

No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
57	1/1/16	PH Rawson 51st Field Ambulance BEF	Mary Furnival The Mead Handforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Everybody was very 'blotto' last night it was a good thing the Bosches made no attack. I am so bored with this peaceful existence that I am going up the line tonight for a bit of excitement"
58	2/1/16	" " <i> Loving Relationships.</i>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Capt. Rawson is very busy "a lot of very interesting cases + a large number of sick My old Btn. got it in the neck again; nine killed + a good number wounded." <u>Loving sentiments.</u>
59	4/1/16	" " <i>Attitudes - Belgian Civilians</i>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>"I brought a little Belgian boy into the world at 5 am this morning. We have got quite a large civilian practice here"</u>
60	5/2/16	8th South Staffs Regt	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt Rawson is expecting to return to some familiar trenches tomorrow + he speaks about the apparent unfairness of leave. Thankyou "for the Country life - reached me today"
61	9/2/16	51st Field Ambulance BEF <i>Conscription</i>	" " <i>Attitudes - Conscription</i> <i>Attitudes to Staff + Creneau Conduct of War.</i>	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt. Rawson has flu. "My regiment was just going up to the trenches so I expect everyone will think I was nerry" <u>Capt Rawson has read about an air raid on England - "good thing in a way - wake up people who are against conscription."</u> <u>We had a most atrocious journey back to the trenches, usual staff arrangements. They couldnt move a rabbit Hutch without messing things up, actually took us for a walk 8 miles out of our way with no food + being up all the night before ... enough to make a cat laugh. Never win the war with such a lot of antiquated ham heads running the show."</u>
62	20/2/16	8th South Staffs Regt BEF	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Out of the trenches again. "The old Hun is very active". The battalion has a new CO, borrowed from another battalion.

63 21/2/16 P.H. Rawson
8th South
Selfs B.F.

Man Farming
Hardsellor
Deadline

Attitudes to
U.K. Civilians

Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "Examined by Base censor" status affected. Capt. Rawson is still ill with a cold. "The old tin is not giving us much rest, very busy with his guns + so are we." "The guns have never really stopped, since the 14th + the sky is absolutely 'lousy' with aeroplanes."
"The Zops seem to have frightened everybody, a good thing as it will stir them up + give them an idea of what the infantry are putting up with every minute of the day." "We are not in the trenches yet..."
"Tell me that you think about getting married darling. Do you feel inclined to take the risk? Because I am going to step up here + not going to base."

64 24/2/16 " " " "

Attitudes: - to German Air Force compared to R.F.C.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
"We are still in the camp behind the lines... Don't believe half the rot the papers put in, make a cat laugh when you know the true version + then read the 'mail'." "Our air service doesn't seem even to compare with the Baske these days. Their machines go about three or four + they seem able to manoeuvre them so much better too."

65 26/2/16 " " " "

Attitudes - towards own Regiment

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
"We are out of the trenches + don't look like going in for a bit as the Bth has quite gone to pot. There is a Major from another battalion commanding + only three captains left + about 15 new officers. I don't think the other officers realize it as much as I do."

66 27/2/16 " " " "

Attitude towards Germans.
interned.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
Capt. Rawson is still in rest camp "They have just brought a new gun up close to our camp, keeps going off + firing. Shakes the place."
"I think they ought to kill all these blasted Baske that are interned."

NO.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
67	29/2/16	PH Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt BEF.	Mary Furnival Handforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "The old Hun is very busy again, strafing away, also crowds of aeroplanes." <u>"Few of my stretcher bearers up for distinguished conduct during the last strafe."</u>
		<u>Distinguished Conduct.</u>		
68	8/3/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We have come down South as I told you we should + are now having a few days rest before we go in to some fresh trenches at <u>Bdixley</u> " (a reference in Creek presumably to bypass the censor) "Has that <u>Bosche button</u> arrived? mind you don't lose it as I cut it off with my own hands..." <u>Souvenir</u>
		<u>Censorship - attempt to circumvent.</u>		
69	9/3/16	" "	<u>Under Bombardment</u>	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "The damn Huns were dropping bombs round us today, won't even let us rest in <u>billets</u> ." "There is a fair amount of sickness among the men + most of them are <u>new daughts</u> too <u>Health / Fitness / Cleanliness / Disease.</u>
70	9/3/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I really think it is much worse for you at home. The waiting and the worrying must be much worse than it is for us..." "I expect the old Hun will take Verdun..." Capt. Rawson talks about the promotion + movement of senior officers in the Battr.
71	12/3/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We are still resting, gets really slow, nothing to do + no excitement as they always put us miles from a town."
72	17/3/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. The Battr is to move into trenches tomorrow. "All the officers that have been there seem to be favourably impressed with them". "Dined out with A Coy. They gave us oysters champagne etc"
73	29/3/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations: "... much more work when the men are billeted than when in camp" " <u>I have just sent the Staff Captain away - measles</u> " "We go to the trenches again on Monday eight days in eight days out"
		<u>Health / Fitness / Cleanliness / Disease</u>		

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
74	6/4/16	Capt Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt DEF <i>Attitudes to Australians</i>	Mary Furnival Hemsworth Cheshire <i>Rats</i>	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We had quite a little strife this morning.... Hope they will let us alone tomorrow as we are busy filling sandbags + making dugouts" <u>"The Australians have taken over some of the line near us, they look fine lefty fellows + do any amount of hard work."</u> <u>"The men are busy raving, great excitement when they kill one."</u> <u>"It is quite chatty with machine guns when it gets dark."</u>
75	10/4/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I think we had better call our wedding off as your people seem to be making such a fuss".... "We had a fairly quiet time in the trenches this trip.... fetched out every night.... <u>one man shot through the neck + through the chest.</u> " <i>Wounds/Wounded</i>
76	13/4/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We came out of the trenches Tuesday night, I would almost rather be in them than out here as there is more to do + less chance of spending money"
77	15/4/16	" " <i>Attitude to Medals (Decorations)</i>	" " <i>Rumour</i>	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Leave is stopped. Capt. Rawson is still out of the trenches <u>"There is some talk of giving everyone a medal who has been in the trenches a hundred days, I think it would be an excellent idea."</u>
78	18/4/16 ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	Men behind the line addressed as above but redirected to Mrs Hindley 12 Rutland Gate North Shore Blackpool.	" "	Reference to those serving behind lines at base. They.. "sit down all day + never take any risk, probably young fellows too. I can't tell you what we call them!" "I want to get back to the trenches + do some work + get fit. Don't like being in billets" <u>"I went to the pictures the other night + see Charlie Chaplin, never laughed so much for years, he's just priceless."</u> <i>Entertainments.</i>
79	22/4/16	Not serving in front line " "	" "	"We go to the trenches tonight".... "The Huns had the audacity to send three shells over this morning, damn cheek what."

NO.	DATE.	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
80	22/4/16	Capt. Rawson 8th South Staffs Rest B.E.F.	Mary Furnival - redirected to 12 Rutland Gate North Shore Blackpool.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We arrived in the trenches last night...." "We have really more work to do out of the trenches than when in - doing inoculations now. The men being in billets causes a lot of work + trouble."
81	22/4/16	Humour (X)	Court Martial	"Did I tell you we had a Subalterns court martial the other day..." "I have been very busy all day building a dugout..." Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
82	23/4/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations N.H.I.
83	24/4/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Capt. Rawson is still building his dugout "I have been very busy sandbagging all day."
84	26/4/16	" "	" " Rats.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Still digging his dugout. "The Huns opposite us must have changed. Have just done some ratting, most exciting, we bagged four + then the Huns dispersed us with some shrapnel."
85	2/5/16	" "	Mary Furnival The Mead Handforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt + Rawson is busy with "inoculations, morning sick + sanitary arrangements." He is not in the trenches. Health/Fitness/Cleanliness/Disease.
86	3/5/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We return to the trenches in a few days, only trust it will be as nice + quiet as last time"
87	4/5/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations N.H.I.
88	5/5/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "We probably shall go into the trenches tonight +... believe we may go out to rest again after this trip + then I suppose we shall be for it." "The Huns have been shelling the place a bit today"...

No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
89	8/5/16	Capt. Ransom 8TR South Staffs Regt. SEF	Mary Furnival The road Handforth Cheshire.	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations.</p> <p><u>"We have arrived in the trenches again the other night. Had rather a wretched trip up. The old (Hum)" was letting off gas + gas shells also other trifles like Snickers. So instead of coming up the usual way we had to take a trip across country it was really rather exciting"...</u> "We had a few casualties early on this morning. One stretcher bearer was wounded too, an awfully nice fellow + one of the original men"..."<u>The old Hum hit my dressing station yesterday afternoon; good thing we are well dug in.</u>"</p>
				<p><i>Marching up to the line</i></p> <p><i>Under Bombardment</i></p>
90	10/5/16	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations.</p> <p><u>"We have had a very quiet time so far in the trenches + but few casualties. There is a good deal of sickness amongst the men, influenza + other old troubles..... The old Hum has been strafing one of our batteries today. Very interesting to watch as long as he doesn't strafe us."</u></p>
				<p><i>Health/Fitness/Cleanliness/Disease.</i></p>
91	12/5/16	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations</p> <p><u>"Thank you so much for the photograph ^{LOVING RELATIONSHIPS} and was able to"</u></p> <p>"I think everyone out here treated the Irish as a joke, but really they are a lot of sones."</p> <p>"The aeroplanes are very busy tonight, I hope it doesn't mean a strafe. They are flying very low, lower than I have ever seen them before"</p> <p><u>"I took a lot of New Zealanders round the trenches yesterday. They seemed most impressed + I had them all crawling about on their knees by kidding them that this was a dangerous sniper corner + so on. I walked behind + never laughed to much in my life"</u></p>
				<p><i>Humour</i></p>
92	14/5/16	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations.</p> <p><u>"We got out of the trenches all night yesterday evening + are now going to march some distance"</u></p>

No. DATE FROM TO

HISTORICAL INTEREST

93 18/5/16 Capt Rawson
8th South
Staff Regt.
Regt.

Major
Ferdinand
Hendrick
Hendrick
Major
Droghda.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
The battalion has arrived at rest area. "but from what I can see there is not going to be much rest for the men"... Capt. Rawson is very important for leave.

94 19/5/16 " " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
"I am sorry I wrote you such an uninteresting letter yesterday, but there is little news + we have to be more careful than ever now"

95 21/5/16 " " " "
Attitudes to
French civilians.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations,
Capt. Rawson is writing a civilian who is very ill. It seems he has a training civilian practice in addition to his Regimental duties... "necessary to say I got nothing - it all improves the opinion of the people for the Regt."

96 24/5/16 " " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
NHI

97 25/5/16 " " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"I was up at 8:00am this morning, did 1/2 hours work + then there is little else to do except go round the Rifle Co or go for a ride."

98 27/5/16 " " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Long for leave + home to see Mary.

99 29/5/16 " " " "
Health / Fitness
Cleanliness / Disinfectant

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"...very busy the last few days inspecting, also seeing new drafts, careful let of scoldings in the last. They seem to send all the weak people out here."
"I have never seen anyone work like these French women, always at it from dawn till dark."

Attitudes to French
Women

100 1/6/16 " " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Capt. Rawson has been busy - "on Parades, rather a change as it is not very often they turn me out. Have just about the unscathed the whole batch. now."

No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
101	4/6/16	Capt. Rawson 8/R South Staffs Regt. G.F.	Mary Finnial The Mged Hundredth Cheshire	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations.</p> <p>"I went to see about leave the other day + was told that I might possibly get it in a fortnight or more if I was lucky. Had a real stroke in there when he told me that so expect I shall be still further delayed."</p> <p><u>"Things don't look very promising do they. I think the sooner we make peace end the war the better because we don't stand any chance of winning"</u></p> <p><u>"They sent us crowds of new warts' out. I feel quite a stranger in my own country, 47 officers in the battn. - all ready for killing Aardal without some of them too. Choked a few off the other day on the march. Said they were no d - use as they let men fall out of the line of march + expect me to get off the horse + examine them"</u></p>
102	6/6/16	Attitudes - Disillusionment	"	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations</p> <p><u>"I think the war will be over soon, as the Huns seem to be beating us all round"</u></p>
103	7/6/16	"	"	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations, NH I</p>
104	9/6/16	" " " "	"	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations.</p> <p><u>"Wasn't it too bad about K of K. It is a good thing for us it did not happen before, we should have been quite lost at the beginning of the war without him"</u></p>
105	11/6/16	" " " "	"	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations.</p> <p><u>"... There is no doubt that K of K lost his life because of spies and English at Rat."</u> ... <u>"I think the war will be over sometime between 1920 and 1930"</u> ... <u>"only ten of the original officers left."</u></p> <p><u>"one of the officers is celebrating his MC"</u> ...</p>

Attitudes - Disillusionment

Officer / Officer Relationships

~~Lord Kitchener~~
not Kitchener
- Rumour

Attitudes - Disillusionment

No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
106	16/6/16	Capt. Ranson 8th Smtg St. J's Post LES	Very - Furber The wood Handwritten C. Ranson	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
107	17/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
108	18/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations N.H.I. Leather / Ethans etc.
109	20/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "I managed to get rid of a fair number of old corks today which should help us to keep up our marking record". Capt. Ranson mentioned his Battalion has been mentioned in dispatches. "one a Hun always a Hun. You should read that official book on German atrocities that you would realize things. English people don't appreciate it at all not leaving Red Ransons burnt over their heads"
110	23/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I enclose a P.C. cut in half for you but you must read between the lines" (No postcard found too). Presumably to indicate where Capt. Ranson is serving too.
111	24/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt. Ranson is now reportedly doubtful about leave in his letters "Let me know if the P.C. arrived safely"
112	26/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "When is young Arthur joining up?... just about the limit are these men at home hanging onto their moccas upon strings..." My leave has nothing to do with the B.M. but the medical divisional staff + damn badly too, the same as they can everything else. Attitudes to divisional staff.

Attitudes to Germans + Ceremony.

mentioned in dispatches.

Polandstrom + something up.

Leather / Ethans etc.

No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
113	28/6/16	Capt. Rawson 8th South Staffs Regt. B.E.F.	Mortality The Medal Honour Coastline	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
114	29/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations N.H.I.
115	13/7/16 (on letters) *	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations * I have taken the date from the letter thinking the "14 Jul 16" postmark may be erroneous. Brief notes on the capture of Fricourt by the 8th South Staffs. The position has come out of the line showing suffered heavy casualties. The taking of souvenirs is mentioned, also the scarcity of water during the battle. "I don't think I have ever done so much work in my life, was at it day + night + never got more than two hours sleep at once." "It is rather nice to see the generals getting the sack, they are all getting packed off about their business because they are not competent to carry on the work."
116	16/7/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Capt Rawson is to celebrate the anniversary of his arrival in France, <u>He has just won 38 Frances at poker.</u> "He was not in the trenches now!" "Have got an empty rice ballot, nice bed & beautifully white sheets..." "My bath captured one thru bath, nearly 100 of one sweep, also lots of machine guns + two field guns. Hope I can get my thru Renault home."
117	17/7/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Three new irons on 2nd Lt's. arrived today. They seem a poor lot after the old ones..." Capt Rawson refers to the Times where there is an article about his brigade... Also our photos were in the mail and Skelton a few days back" <u>He has taken 39 Frances at poker</u> <u>Scrambling</u>

Summary

Libertine & Specific
toons - Fricourt.
Souvenirs
Attitudes towards
General Staff.

Scrambling

Scrambling

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
118	20/7/16	Capt Rawson 8th South Staffs BEF.	Mary Furnival The Mead Handforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Captain Rawson is still in billets N.H.I.
119	20/7/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Capt. Rawson is still in billets. "Goodness knows how the men will shape as there are so many new ones; also the new officers seem pretty useless for most things" <u>"The staff have been too long playing about, if they would only....."</u> CRITICISM OF STAFF
120	26/7/16	" "	" Wound "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations <u>Capt. Rawson has heard from a fellow officer who received a serious wound "5" by 2" - "I never thought he would stand a chance."</u>
121	25/7/16	" Souvenir "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>"I have got a tan helmet to send you....."</u> "We have moved up much nearer the line". Details of the march + train journey to bivouacs. <u>"No post except for the brass hats who remain a long way behind."</u> <u>"We are fed very well indeed."</u> Food
122	27/7/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "...we are just behind the line expecting to be moved any moment + join in things."
123	28/7/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "The guns have been very busy of late.....we should be in the thick of it tomorrow." "The General is decorating the men today"... <u>"We had 7 new officers today,</u> <u>more cannon fodder sent it awful"</u> Attitudes - Disillusionment
124	30/7/16	" "	" Souvenir "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I have spent the day lying in the sun + listening to the guns + watching aeroplanes + observation balloons" <u>Reference to a Mauser pistol as a souvenir.</u>

Attitudes to Staff

Attitudes - Disillusionment

Souvenir

No.	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
125	1/8/16	Capt Rawson 8th South Staffs B.E.F.	Mary Funnival The Mead Handforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt Rawson talks of his battn "... everybody is new + about 70% have never heard a shot fired in anger..."
126	8/8/16	" "	Mary Funnival Colintraive Isle of Bute	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "very quiet day, we have had a few wounded through + lots of sick, awful lot of crocks in this division..." <u>Health/Fitness etc.</u>
127	14/8/16	" " <u>Trench conditions</u> <u>Attitudes to General Staff.</u>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>Capt Rawson has come out of the trenches after ten days of hot weather -</u> <u>"talk about flies + smells, awful, bodies strewn all over the place in different stages of decomposition"...</u> <u>"If they only had a few men with brains running the show we should easily beat the Hun but as it is with all these brainless people at the top of the tree it will take years."</u> Mention of Delville Wood + another - T..... Wood <u>"The King is said to have been through Fricourt yesterday"...</u>
128	21/8/16	<u>Marching up to the line</u>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>"We are now in the trenches again. Another part of the line + a good deal quieter than the last place.... we marched 17 miles, men in full packs, rifles, 120 rounds etc, two gas helmets + a tin hat, roughly 100 lbs."</u>
129	23/8/16	" " <u>Attitude to staff officers</u> <u>Leaving Relations</u>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt Rawson comments on the quiet nature of his part of the line. He has decided against a request for transfer to base ... <u>"There are so many snobs at the base."</u> <u>"no sign of leave but I can get special leave if you will meet me in London + get married, that is the only way..."</u>
130	25/8/16	" " <u>Ship's</u>	Mary Funnival Colintraive Kyles of Bute Scotland - redirected to Handforth Cheshire	Censor cancellation only. <u>"our CO. is acting Brigadier the other man having gone on leave. As usual the gilded staff can get what they want."</u> <u>Attitude to Staff.</u>

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
131	25/8/16	Capt Rawson 81R South Staffs. BEF.	Mary Furnival Kyles of Bute Scotland -redirected Hindforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt Rawson notes the time taken for mail to arrive from England is a week. In the past it had been up to 11 days.
132	28/8/16	" " " "	" " " "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>Mention of a revolver sent through the post as a trophy.</u>
133	28/8/16	" " " "	" " " "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We go out of the line to-morrow for 8 days, only go back a mile though!" Capt Rawson is making a garden to pass the time!! "The men are very amused about it."
134	29/8/16	" " " "	" " " "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We came out of the trenches last night + in empty houses a couple of miles or so behind the line."
135.	20/9/16	" " " "	Mary Furnival The Mead Hindforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Between letter 134 + 135 Capt Rawson has taken his leave + writes about his return to France + his unit in this letter. "we have had only 2 casualties amongst the men" "The man who did my work sent away 31 sick men, pretty good for a fortnight"
136	21/9/16 *	" " " "	" " " "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. * Date taken from letter, cancellation pos. erroneous. <u>"We had several drafts of Derbymen.... Unfortunately they are sending no anyone most of them not even Staffords at all. - More Staff rot. They always lose their heads at the slightest bit of work..."</u>
137	26/9/16	" " " "	" " " "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Capt. Rawson is in billets + comments on the quality of these. Talk also of a route march + the need to drive the men on. Also of special leave to get married.

Souvenir

Abtitude of Staff officers

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
138	27/8/16	Capt Rawson 8th South Staff BCF.	Mary Funnal The Mead Handforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>"I believe we are intended for a third shot at the Somme... the C.O. will rejoice also the brass hats at the division who stay miles behind."</u> <u>Attitudes to Staff Officers</u>
139	28/8/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "behind the line doing intensive training..."
140	30/8/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Two letters in one envelope. (a) From Capt Rawson to Mary Funnal (b) From "Blanche" to Capt Rawson + sent on by him to Mary Funnal. <u>(a) "I am sending you a paper knife made by a wounded French soldier ... out of a Hun shellcase + rifle bullet cartridge + British Tommie's button!"</u> <u>(b) dated Sept 24th 1916 from Melthorpe Vicarage, Lincoln. a few lines relating to a Zeppelin raid on Britain.</u>
141	1/9/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations NHI. * letter no 256 dated 20/9/16 should fit here
142	2/10/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt Rawson mentions previous 'shows' he was involved in i.e. Fricourt + Quadrangle.
143	3/10/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Route march of 14 miles
144	4/10/16	" "	" "	No censor or P.O. cancellations at all <u>"We are again in billets a little nearer the line... seen some thirty sick with all various complaints."</u> <u>"You have heard of tanks, saw a lot yesterday, some invention they must fair score the old Huns."</u> <u>Tanks.</u>

Souvenir.

Zeppelin Raid.

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
145 a/b	3/10/16	Capt. Rawson 8TR South Staffs BEF	Mary Furnival The Mead Hamdforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations a) Letter from Capt Rawson to Mary Furnival "We get nearer the trouble every day... I am anxious to see the Tanks at work" "I don't see any ending to the war this year" b) Letter from Kathleen (Furnival?) % B.R.C.S. HQ, Boulogne BEF to Capt. Hugh Rawson + passed on to Mary Furnival. N.H.I.
146	9/10/16 *	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations * date taken from letter "We had a few officer casualties + a good many men, fortunately no officers were killed"
147	11/10/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations N.H.I.
148	11/10/16	" " Under Bombardment	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "We are again in the trenches." <u>Capt Rawson talks about German shelling - last night he sent some two thousand over mainly tear shells, we were all crying like children about 2 am.</u> "Just had a few casualties in; the Hun is getting very officious".
149.	13/10/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We are still in the trenches + look like staying here sometime" Reference to a 1st Lieut _____ called Evans. (Possibly the Lincoln M.O.)
150	13/10/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "We are still in the trenches... .. it is fair chatter with guns + tanks + other forms of killing"
151	16/10/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Came out of the trenches last night, only a very little way back + surrounded by big guns... They are busy registering today. There is a big 18(?) inch behind us which is going off about every 5 minutes."

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
152	16/10/16	Capt Rawson 8th South Staffs B.E.F.	Mary Furnival 40 TE Marchington Fern Lea Fairfield Manchester	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We are just behind the trenches living in houses.... There have been a considerable number of Hun aeroplanes over us today...." Reference to the Lincoln M.O. named Evans.
153	19/10/16	" " Court Martial Shooting	not included in catalogue	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I had a letter from Philip Warren the other day, seems very fit but fed up as he has had to attend another shooting party." Reference to a concert party called the "Duds" Superstition about Friday 13th spent in the trenches. <u>Capt. Rawson suggests putting up the Banns for the forthcoming marriage.</u>
154	23/10/16	" "	Mary Furnival The Mucd Handforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We have been moving by motor...." N.H.I.
155	25/10/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "we have been moving again.... the same place we were at on the 1st of July.... We are unpleasantly near the guns..."
156	2/11/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Went for a walk yesterday over the ground where all our officers were hit. I was not able to find any graves.... made me feel very sad to think of all these fine boys killed there."
157	12/11/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "we go up to the trenches tomorrow" "we cheered like the blazes when two Huns were brought down"
158	24/11/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "The weather is just glorious + we are having a great time in the chateau with piano complete."

Love
Relationships

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
159	25/11/16	Capt. Rawson 8FR South Staffs BEF	Mary Furnival The Mead Handforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "I had a very stormy interview with the ADMS. the other day re my contract + finally agreed to sign on again if I could proceed on leave." "We are having some rest, football league, cinema's, divisional ? <u>troupe known as the "Duds". "Went out poaching last night, crowds of pheasants + partridges, also hares, I take a revolver with me."</u>
160	27/11/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
161	27/11/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We had an awfully rough time in those last lot of trenches, it really was an awful place. There were scores of bodies... lying about unburied!"
162	29/11/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "So far I have refused to sign on unless they will give me 14 days unconditional leave." Capt. Rawson's bath is in rest - "The best I have had since I have been out here" <u>"Have been fair fleeced at poker"...</u>
163 a/b	2/12/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Two letters in one envelope. a) Capt Rawson is expecting leave from about 17/18th Dec. b) N.H.I.
164	4/12/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "Have been very busy trotting off to the ADMS office about signing on."
165	8/12/16	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We are still resting + hope to be here another week." <u>Capt. Rawson is treating the local population... quite a number of old French people to see. They do like getting everything on the cheap, however I get my own back with pill no 9.</u>

Sport/Entertainment.

Gambling

Attitudes to French Civilians.

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
166	13/12/16	Capt Rawson 8th South Staffs B.E.F.	Mary Furnival The Mead Handforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "We have got rotten billets now. The interpreter had to threaten to bring the Grenadiers in before I could get a billet."
167	19/12/16	Mr Rawson (senior) The Vicarage Mettingham Lincoln	" "	One penny stamp, cancelled at Mettingham A letter from Hugh Rawson's father to Mary Furnival confirming arrangements for her to visit the vicarage for Xmas while Hugh is home on leave.
168	28/12/15	Capt Rawson 51st Field Ambulance B.E.F.	" "	This letter is recorded here out of sequence by mistake. It relates to Dec 1915 not Dec 1916 + fits between letters 56 + 57! "I am still at our A.D.S. + go up with the cars every night..."
Captain Philip Hugh Rawson and Mary Elizabeth Furnival were married by William Rawson, father and vicar at Mettingham Parish Church, Lincoln, on the 1st February 1917 - see miscellaneous documents for a copy of the wedding certificate.				
169	22/5/17	Capt Rawson No 3 General Hospital Boulogne	Mrs Mary Rawson The Mead Handforth Cheshire	Envelope bearing Grand Hotel, Boulogne-sur-mer. Censor cancellation and "examined by censor" sticker "have applied to go back to the old Division"... Captain Rawson has just returned to France + is at the hospital in Boulogne with little to do.
170	22/5/17 *	Capt Rawson c/o A.D.M.S. 62nd Div. B.E.F.	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. *date taken from letter Captain Rawson is still travelling + expects to see a Battalion M.O. again... "all the soft jobs out here are now filled with Territorial or Special reserve men, very few temporary commissions." "Was travelling all last night, did about 60 miles in 17 hours not so bad for the French Railways."
171	24/5/17	Capt. Rawson 2/3 West Riding Field Ambulance B.E.F.	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "The A.D.M.S. seems quite a decent sort of man, but I can see I shall be pushed off to a regiment before long." "The Division has been pretty badly cut up"... "I shall always be able to say I have done my bit when it is over"

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
172	25/5/17	Capt Rawson 2/3 West Riding Field Ambulance	Mary Rawson The Head Handforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Had a very nice quiet game of Bridge + made 5 1/4 pances. <u>They are a very sensible crowd in this Ambulance, dont drink much or play cards for much money.</u> " Enclosed with this letter is a plain postcard on which is written a recipe in pencil for Short cakes "as made on Active Service".
		Attitude towards own unit.		
173	26/5/17	"Gas school" Instruction	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "This morning I was sent <u>to Gas school for instruction in the wearing of gas helmets + box respirators.</u> " Brief discussion on the merits of gas shells. "All I have done today is to see about 10 sick, go to the gas school + then censor letters." A brief offhand mention of his M.C. - not of any significance
174	28/5/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "I am definitely attached to the Field Ambulance now!"...
175	28/5/17	" " " " Entertainments Stratle from the air	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "We have just got back from a concert given by the <u>Divisional troupe known as the Pelicans.</u> " <u>Capt Rawson records a German bombing raid (briefly)</u>
176	29/5/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I have discovered a friend at Court that is the brother of the Dean of London so have written to the Dean + asked him if he would get me a softer job as I can see plainly that I am for a regiment soon"
177	30/5/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. The 62nd Division has moved a short distance possibly to a rest area
178	31/5/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We are expecting to be here for 3 weeks, not really a rest for the infantry as I believe they are going on working parties." "One of the men in the Ambulance has just got a M.M." "I think personally the whole ambulance is a washout anyway it is after my old one."

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
179	1/6/17	Capt Rawson 2/3 West Riding Field Ambulance BEF	Mary Rawson The Mead Hamforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Capt. Rawson is still in a not area "I am doing my best for a soft job so you must not worry"
180	2/6/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations N.H.I.
181	3/6/17	" "	" "	YMCA 'On Active Service' envelope Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I am doing my best to get out of the above outfit" Capt. Rawson complains of too little work
182	4/6/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "The Hun has been very busy, dropping some really big stuff.... Another of the men has been awarded a M.M..... "We are still resting + having a real old slack"
183	5/6/17	" <i>Balloons.</i> "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. " <u>There are always about 20 Kite balloon up + aeroplanes by the gross.</u> "
184	6/6/17	" <i>Attitudes. Disillusionment</i> "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. " <u>I am now afraid the war will last another 2 years.</u> " Capt. Rawson is still trying for a transfer.
185.	7/6/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Everything is very quiet now on this part of the line"
186	8/6/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "The guns are going like hell tonight but I don't think there is much doing. My little tent is about 6 miles behind - can almost see the line on a clear day."
187	9/6/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt. Rawson has been moved temporarily to another Ambulance who "are running a sort of rest station or hospital for one of the brigades!" "The desolation round here is simply awful, no-one can imagine it unless they have seen it."

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST
188	10/6/17	Capt Rawson 2/3 West Riding Field Ambulance SEF	Major Rawson The Merc Hendyfor Creswell	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. NHI
189	11/6/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Capt Rawson talks of him "having left the R.F.C." at an earlier date in his career. No record exists of his being in the R.F.C. in those letters. "I don't care much about the other officers in the 2/3 except on Wigglesworth by name. I like them better at this place than at work"
190	12/6/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "I am O.C. Hospital + have about 50 censors in + have just done 29 incentations"
191	13/6/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "must have about 70 censors in hospital + see a rare lot of stragglers who <u>deal in from outside, + a few incentives"</u>
192	14/6/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "very busy incenting + seeing side"... "my old orderly in the 8th Bns got a D.C.M..."
193	15/6/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "have been sitting on medical boards today, awfully boring. I am now O.M.O. every other day + O.C. Hospital + sick parade every day"
194	16/6/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "The G.O.C. visits tomorrow..."
195	17/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "bury today, administering sick + packing a lot off..." "The G.O.C. inspection went off quite well"
196	18/6/16	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. NHI.

No

DATE

FROM

TO

HISTORICAL INTEREST.

37

197

19/6/17

Capt Ranson The Head
2/3 Lieut Ralston
Field Ambulance
BEF.
Mary Ranson
The Head
Hampshire
Dorset
BEF.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"Had a Bessie plane coming about today ordered for about an hour"
"One of the kite balloons Section have moved up quite close to us"
"I am still O.C. hospital"

198

20/6/17

Field P.O. + censor cancellations

"I have had another more and am M.O. 1/6 2/5 KOYI.I. ... They are not in the trenches it is only a temporary move."

199

21/6/17

Mary Ranson
c/o M. Farnwell
6 The Square
Furford
Mendips

Field P.O. + censor cancellations

"Yesterday I was sent to the 2/5 King Own Yorkshire Light Infantry + shall remain here until the M.O. comes off from leave."
"Can see Corporal's form where I am now."
"I sense that Mary Ranson is expecting, she is suffering from indigestion!"

200

22/6/17

Field P.O. + censor cancellations

NHI

201

23/6/17

Sports.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
"I rode up to the trenches today". "The tanks have been playing cricket match today + have been apparently badly beaten."

202

24/6/17

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Capt. Ranson played football. "It is a wonderfully clear day I can see about half a dozen Bessie balloons up."

203

25/6/17

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
"I go in the line fairly soon but I shall be back with the ambulances by then"

204

28/6/17

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
Capt. Ranson has been for a "joy ride to Amiens."

205

29/6/17

Field P.O. + 2 censor cancellations + opened by Base censor sticker.
"I am back with the Ambulance + am now helping to man the ADS."

NO	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
206	28/6/17	Capt Rawson 2/3 West Rushy Field Ambulance S.E.F.	Mary Rawson The Wood Hindforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations, N.H.I.
207	30/6/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Have had little work to do so far..... Plenty of excitement in the air just now..... The old Hun has been very busy (shelling) today"
208	2/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "We had a few serious cases today, but really nothing to what I have seen."
209	3/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "a long walk going round the R.A.P.'s must have walked a good 7 miles!" "The old Bosche has been very busy shelling a battery about a quarter of a mile away + seem to have done in a brace of guns"..... "Had several bad cases to treat today, fractures + that sort of thing. We have a Swallows nest in our dug-out - they have laid 3 eggs in it!"
210	4/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "The guns have been very quiet.... only a few sick to attend to"
211	6/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
212	8/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "we have only had one case through in 24 hours."
213	9/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "a few wounded + few sick to see"....
214	9/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations There have been a lot of aeroplanes over today + one or two interesting scraps....

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
215	12/7/17	Capt. Rawson 2/3 West Riding Field Amb. BEF.	Mary Rawson The Mead 1 Handforth Cheshire.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "Some exciting air scraps on today + now the big guns have started to fire a bit."
216	13/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "I have seen quite a number of cases today, mainly P.U.O. and N.I. D.N. (Pmanbea J.) "There was an exciting scrap in the air today, two Baches chasing one of our slow planes, he got away alright, but I quite expected a job."
217	16/7/17	" "	Mary Rawson Carl Road Colinton Kyles of Bute Scotland	Field P.O. + censor cancellations N.H.I.
218	16/7/17	Algenon Nowell (?) BEF	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations A letter from a friend or relative serving in France N.H.I.
219	18/7/17	Capt Rawson 2/3 Field Amb West Riding BEF <i>Aeroplanes.</i>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations <u>"There was great aerial activity over us this evening + I spent a most interesting hour watching them fight. Wonderful to see them manoeuvring at 120 miles an hour. Nearly all the guns shut up to watch them."</u>
220	18/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>"Have had quite a number of cases in today, it really is an awful business as we can do very little for them. I would just love to shoot every Bache in the world..."</u> <u>"I really must put in for a transfer as I cannot stand this appalling show any longer."</u> <i>Attitudes to the Germans.</i>
221	23/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
222	24/7/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "There is little work to do just now + thank goodness to as I am fed up with seeing people knocked about with shells." "A lot of Bache planes about...."

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
223	26/7/17	Capt Rawson 2/3 West Riding Field Amb. REF	Morn Rawson Colintraive Kyles of Bute Scotland.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Captain Rawson is hoping for a quieter job as M.O. at Corps School.
224	29/7/17	" " <i>Attitudes to Stett.</i>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations <u>"I am prepared to offer 5 to 1 odds.. that it ends this year with an inconclusive peace + a rather a moral victory with the Huns.... we are such bunglers + such a staff."</u>
225	6/8/17	" " <i>Aeroplanes</i>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>"There was quite a good scrap in the air tonight, one machine came down in flames..."</u>
226	6/8/17	" "	" " <i>Censor.</i>	Field P.O. + censor cancellations + base censor sticker. <u>"I had my aidpost in front of (Here a large part of the text has been cut out of the letter presumably by the censor)"</u> "We are resting out of range in a small town." "I am afraid that a goodly number of familiar faces are missing from the mess"
227	7/8/17	Capt Rawson 2/3 West Riding Field Amb, REF	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I am quite fit though seem very slack + tired" NHI
228	10/8/17	" "	May Rawson 16 The Square Fairfield Manchester.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "No work + we cannot get any exercise unless we go for a walk round the trenches" "There is a bit of a stage a little further north. I hope it wont spread down to this area as I get the wind up badly these days?"
229	10/8/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Had quite a few ^{Pauvre} Blesse in last night + about a score of sick so have been quite busy" "We have nearly finished the sap, so have a good place to run to if the Hun starts strafing us."

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
230	11/8/17	Capt. Rawson 2/3 West Riding Field Amb. BEF	Mary Rawson Cool R. Wash Colin Traill Kyles of Bute Sect. Ind.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "The guns have been a little active this evening + we have seen a decent fight in the air.... "Had quite a busy morning what with Pauvre Blessé + sick...." "Some of our balloons broke loose tonight + went sailing over to Bosch land"
231	11/8/17	" "	Mary Rawson & The Square Fairfield Manchester	Field P.O. + censor cancellations <u>Capt. Rawson has been gambling again at "vingt et un" + poker</u> <i>Gambling</i> "Have been busy today and last night, the old Bosche being rather busy"
232	13/8/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "Have had several blessé in today + the usual number of sick" "Have been up at the Advanced Dressing Station now for about 7 weeks, much better place than H.Q."
233	14/8/17	" "	Mary Rawson The Mead Handforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "Am still at the ADS + have done a long trail round the trenches tonight..." <u>"Have just had a game of poker..."</u> <i>Gambling.</i>
234	15/8/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>Capt. Rawson relates a story about a Padre playing cards on a Sunday at an RFA mess. The mess was destroyed the next day - Aspects under "Luck / Superstition"</u> <i>Luck / Superstition.</i>
235	16/8/17	" " <i>Under Bombardment</i>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>The old Hun has been very busy today. I think he gets his ammunition on Tuesdays now + lets it all loose on Wednesdays. He must have put nearly a 1000 rounds over.... we have had one casualty...</u> <u>He managed to put an R.E. dump in the air through....</u>

NO	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
236	18/8/17	Capt Rawson 2/3 West Riding, Field Amb. B.E.F.	Mary Rawson The Mead Handforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
237	20/8/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. " have spent two days with a Battrn in the trenches, relieved a man to go + ride in the Corps Sports." "The Busche..... blew in our cook house...."
238	21/8/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "Flocks of aeroplanes about... <u>Have got two 18 pound shell cases, intend to try + bring them back when I get leave.</u> Souvenirs. Mention of an officer; Wigglesworth in the 2/3 Field Amb. His signature can be seen on the envelope of letter 237.
239	22/8/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We leave this celestial spot soon, expect it means a rest + then falling up for the show somewhere."
240	23/8/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "Have been busy sandbagging all day + putting some flooring in"
241	27/8/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "have not seen a shell burst for two days. Seen quite a few poor blessed today also the usual quantity of sick. Cret very fed up with the latter" "over a week since I was in the trenches..... We are supposed to go at least once a week but seldom do as nobody thinks of putting their noses into trouble unless they have to."

No

DATE

FROM

TO

HISTORICAL INTEREST

43

242

28/8/17

Capt. Rawson
2/3 Lt Col
Riding Field
Amb. BEF

Mary Rawson
The Mead
Hordley
Cheshire

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
It seems Mary Rawson is due to give birth about 18e 4115s January 1918.
N.H.I.

243

30/8/17

" "

" "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
Capt. Rawson is still expecting to move location
"All sorts of rumours about the war ending in October" Rumours.
The Ambulance was a real 2 1/2 having transferred from 18e ASC.

244

1/9/17

" "

" "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
* Data taken from letter
"Re last day or so some rather bad news"
"The rumour of our move seems to have dropped.... The heavy gunners have pulled off though!"

245

3/9/17

" "

" "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"I am writing this having heard about Jerry & the men (letters)"

246

4/9/17

" "

" "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
Capt. Rawson expresses reservation. "I am getting awfully fed up with the work, can hardly dress a case now without feeling sick. I think my day is over for this job, only wish it would end."
Articles - Disillusionment

247

5/9/17

" "

" "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
N.H.I.

248

6/9/17

" "

" "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Capt. Rawson is now at HQ. "It is much safer, no more trips around the trenches for a week or so.... I think it is an excuse to get me away to a regiment!"

No

DATE

FROM

TO

HISTORICAL INTEREST

4-4

249

7/9/17

Capt Rawson
2/31st
Riding Field
Amb. BEE
Mary Rawson
The head
Henderson
Deerfield

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
N.H.I.

250

8/9/17

" " " "
Gas School
course.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations
" I have been detailed for a Gas course at Corps School. They have
got the wind up very badly about it these days"

251

9/9/17

" " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"I am very anxious to get my leave. They are beginning to talk about
signing on again." (for a further years military service).

252

14/9/17

" " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Capt. Rawson has just returned from Gas school. Experiences of
longing + homesickness. "Took me 5 days to do a 2 day gas course so
you can guess I am fed up."

253

17/9/17

" " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"you need not worry dear about my signing on again, am too anxious
about you." "We have seen quite a lot of sick today, we have a
few officers in too + they are a pretty nuisance"

254

20/9/17

" " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Experiences of boredom "If we could but get enough work to do it would
make all the difference."

255

20/9/17

" " " "

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Capt. Rawson has returned to his original battalion. "...they
are in support + will be going out for a rest soon." Capt. Rawson
expects to be with the batt for some weeks.

256 *

20/9/17

Capt Rawson
8/1st
Stalls Post
BEE.

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"Everything seems too awful for words. The trenches are untraced."

"only two old stagers left." (ie, Rawson + Greg). "I don't feel at all
well + am quite nervous when the guns go off; goodness knows what
it is." * This letter is out of sequence + refers to 1916. See 14/1/14-2.

No	DATE	From	To	HISTORICAL INTEREST
257	21/9/17	Capt. Rawson 2/S KOYLI REG.	Mrg Rawson The Herald Hampshire Coastline	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I am still up in the support line. The O.C. Ambulance said he would get me relieved as soon as possible." "I have got the best regiment. An awful nice lot of officers + I am quite happy."
258	23/9/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "He came out of the trenches yesterday, got 8 days rest + then 16 in again.... 8 in support + 8 in the front line." "As I had summoned Reg turned me away from the Ambulance + have appointed me permanently to the 2/SIR KOYLI." There seems some friction between Rawson & his superiors about a request for a transfer "It is all because I am a Temporary man + not a territorial." Capt. Rawson is feeling depressed + in 'muddled head"
259	24/9/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt. Rawson has resolved not to sign on for further service + is most unhappy about his treatment over leave.
260	23/9/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. I enclose a photo of Hid (?) + the Nipper " (2 photos enclosed of a lady and a young girl). "Last night Reg took 50 frames off me at poker" Gambling
261	25/9/17	"	" Spots "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt. Rawson has decided a nice hole golf course to pass the time. N.H.I.
262	28/9/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Spots day for the man. He proceed up to the trenches day after tomorrow.

NO	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
263	30/9/17	Capt Rawson 2/SKOYLI BEF	Mary Rawson MatKeringham Lincoln.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
264	1/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations "we arrived in the trenches last night, quite a cushy spot"
265	2/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations: "... "I am in a dug-out some place too, not very safe but nice + airy." Capt. Rawson complains about the Ambulance unit over the settling of his mess bill.
266	2/10/17 *	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations * date taken from letter. "Went for a jaunt round the support lines at midnight last night..." "Well they have sent me my transfer back saying that if I can persuade some one to exchange with me it will be all right as though anyone would be such a B.F. as to exchange into a regiment from a C.C.S. or a base hospital. On the other hand they would get me a job if I would undertake to sign on again, so I think the only thing to do is to just stick it + make myself as dam unpleasant as possible."
267	4/10/17	" "	" " <i>Dugout</i>	Field P.O. + censor cancellations <u>A pencil drawing/diagram to show Captain Rawsons dugout and bed.</u> <u>drawn on graph paper + separate from the letter.</u> "The old hen is very busy this morning putting salvo's of pretty big stuff into the valley"... "Have just given a few No. 9 out on ounce or two of coator oil, wonderful the way it keeps the sick parade down!" Capt. Rawson has poor relations with his A.D.M.S. "(I am) sending no returns in + positively ignoring any communications from the A.D.M.S."

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
268	4/10/17	Capt Rawson 27 KOYL BEF	Mary Rawson M ^r Penningham Winch.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
269	6/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "Still very quiet where we are, but a lot of stuff passes overhead" <u>More games of bridge + poker</u> Crambling.
270	7/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I was awakened by a nasty noise, The old Basche put about 6 at the road + then settled down to sleep again" <u>More games of bridge + poker</u> "They seem to be very short of M.O.'s in this Division. I think that is what has been holding leave up."
271	10/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We move out (of the trenches) tonight"... "to think we have to go back to tents + no floor boards."
272	10/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We came out of the trenches last night..... We move tomorrow, go to some hell of a place" <u>"We are still in tents, absolutely l-o-dy, almost as bad as 1915 they never seem to learn sense."</u> Criticism of Staff.
273	13/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "We moved about 10 miles..... we are all billeted in one hut..... all the men are in huts."
274	13/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
275	13/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.

NO	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
276	14/10/17	Capt. Ransson 25th R Coy LI REF.	Mey Ransson Matheringham Lincoln.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "a game of golf today". More games of bridge Sports + Gambling. + poker
277	15/10/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt. Ransson attends a concert in the Sergeants mess. "The bath is just about sports party" <u>6 side football + rugby.</u>
278	15/10/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "No... fear of me signing on again. Wouldn't do it if they offered to make me a <u>Lieut Colonel.</u> "
279	17/10/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt. Ransson is still in billets with little to do except play golf bridge or poker
280	18/10/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "sports for the troops ending in a mule race for officers" Sports.
281	19/10/17	"	"	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. NHI.
282	21/10/17	"	"	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations</p> <p>a) A letter from Capt Ransson - "We have got a big model on tomorrow, playing the Brigade"; "officers being playing hockey today".</p> <p>b) A letter from W. Riddham Whipple, General Road, Farnborough, Hants to Captain Ransson + forwarded in his envelope to Mary Ransson. "had 14 days leave, the first since leave I've had for 20 months"</p> <p>Also humorous comments from a serving M.O. about proposed new <u>Courses for recruitment of men for the R.F.C.</u></p> <p>* Captain Ransson.</p> <p>Humour.</p>

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
283	19/10/17	Your ever-true friend Stella 217 Willemopackerweg Amsterdam	Mary Farnham The Mead Hemdforth Cheshire.	'Opened by censor' label attached to envelope. "I am getting on very well + my life is very gay in spite of the beastly war" A letter to renew past acquaintance with Mary.
284	22/10/17	Capt Rawson 2/5 Koy LI BEF	Mary Rawson Mettingham Lincoln.	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. Capt Rawson is still in billets + passing the time playing golf. He has visited 2/3 West Riding Field Amb. Did a few inoculations the otherday, some of the silly asses refused to be done.....
285	23/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
286	24/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. <u>"I was very upset yesterday heard that my old C.O. Colonel Barker was seriously wounded + that they had sent for his relations..."</u>
287	25/10/17	" " <i>Wounds/ Wounded</i>	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "...we are still in the same place... I have little to do." "Saw a few Bosche prisoners today"
288	26/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations It is Capt. Rawson's birthday - "no letters from anyone." <u>Colonel Barker's wound is in the thigh ... He was laid out in the open for 25 hours before they got him in."</u>
289	27/10/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. N.H.I.
290	28/10/17 *	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations * Date taken from letter. "The man whose place I have taken has apparently got some job at home, sort of O.C. to a N.C.C. battn."

No

DATE

FROM

TO

HISTORICAL INTEREST

50

291

29/10/17

Capt. Rawson
2/5 ROY-LI
E.S.F.

Mary Rawson
Moffingham
Lincoln

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"The bathn played 2/4 at Rodey today" **Sport.**
Capt Rawson continues to complain over the issue of leave... "It seems impossible for me to get fair treatment in this damn territorial division".

292

31/10/17

"

"

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"Have moved a good twelve miles today + fifteen yesterday...."

293

31/11/17

"

"

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Concerned primarily with Capt. Rawson's desire to obtain leave.

Temp
294

1/11/17

"

"

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Capt. Rawson is in a comfortable billet + has time to play golf + bridge

295

2/11/17

"

"

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
N.I.I

296

27/11/17

"

"

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
"Have been told to report to the Field Ambulance today... I am supposed to be in England on the 1st".

297

30/11/17

"

Mary Rawson
The Head
Hampshire
Cheshire

Field P.O. + censor cancellations.
Am most optimistic about things as I noticed on my papers that I was not liable for conscription + could join on for a year if I preferred it... Bathn got badly knocked about in their second slot. Did exuberantly in the first.

298

22/11/17

"

"

Censor cancellation only. Note paper marked "E.F.C. Officers Rest House and Mrs' * Dots taken from letter.
"I had a most uninteresting evening" It seems Capt Rawson is just returning to France after a period of leave."

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
299	2/12/17	Capt. Rawson 2/5 Koyli BEF	Mary Rawson The Mead Handforth Cheshire	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations:</p> <p>a) Letter from Capt. Rawson "by means of various subterfuges I have avoided the trenches, though I have felt a bit ashamed of myself.... The old Bosche has started his long range shelling"</p> <p>b) letter from Capt. W. Pridham-Wippell RANC to Capt. Rawson + forwarded in this envelope to Mary Rawson. Capt. Wippell gives advise on the consequences of signing on for a further year + further advice about avoiding a nursing home for Mary. Also news about mutual friends.</p>
300	3/12/17	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations</p> <p>a) A cartoon cutting from a magazine.</p> <p>b) Letter :- "Well we are out of the line but not far enough for my liking..."</p>
301	8/12/17	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations</p> <p>a) Letter from Capt Rawson "we have got very posh billets just now." Capt. Rawson is soon expecting to complete his military service</p> <p>b) A note from sister-in-law Joan Furnival († 1990) youngest sister of Mary Rawson (nee Furnival) dated 25th July (!) N.H.I.</p>
302	11/12/17	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations.</p> <p>"... still nesting + I have got quite a nice little place to myself..."</p> <p>... "soon be on my way home."</p>
303	11/12/17	" "	" "	<p>Field P.O. + censor cancellations</p> <p>"we are still well behind the lines" N.H.I</p>

No	DATE	FROM	TO	HISTORICAL INTEREST.
304	12/12/17	Capt Rawson 25K04LI BEF	Mary Rawson The Mead Handforth Cheshire	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "Hope to get off from here (to England) on 14th or 15th"
305	14/12/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations Capt Rawson is still in conflict with his A.D.M.S. but now believes he has evaded the military authorities desire for him to remain in military service.
306	15/12/17	" "	" "	Field P.O. + censor cancellations. "I begin my journey home on the 15th"... "played a game of golf with the C.O. + beat him." <u>expressions of longing.</u> <i>Loving Relationships.</i> In with this letter is a small cutting from a newspaper regarding the divorce of friends. Also two small religious picture postcards with french printed text. On the back of one is written "To Dear Mary, In memory of Ave Mary - Stella With best love from Cissie"
[The bottom half of the page is crossed out with a diagonal line.]				

✓ RAWSON P.H. CAPTAIN RAMC W/F Feb 1915 - Dec 1917

Regiments:- ✓ RAMC Feb 1915 - Dec 1917
✓ 8th Royal Scots Staffs Regt. Feb 1915 - Dec 1916
✓ 51st Field Ambulance Jan 1916
✓ 2/3rd West Riding Field Ambulance May 1917 - Sept 1917
✓ 2/5th Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Sept 1917 - Dec 1917

General Aspects

Letter Numbers

Attitudes + Opinions:-

✓ Joining up/Patriotism 17, 43, 112,
✓ British civilians 22, 61, 63
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✓ Towards own Regiment 65, 172,
✓ Towards Australians 74,
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Censorship 45, 48, 68, 110, 226, ✓

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Entertainment/Sports. 78, 159, 175, 201, 261, 277, 280, 282, 291 ✓

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(Not entered into General Aspects)

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General Aspects (cont.)

Letter Numbers

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~~Leave~~ ~~ALMOST ALL LETTERS~~

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Rumors 104, 105, 14, 22, 77, 243 ✓

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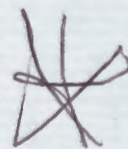
Trench Conditions 13, 47, 48, 127, ✓

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