

Meanings of Military Service

Learning Resources KS3

**A letter from Francis Grenfell addressed to his family,
1914.**

From Francis

dated 2 Nov Boulogne

allied Base Hospital

My Dear Family,

Got it again! But am not much the worse. I arrived here yesterday and I missed last nights boat by one. I've had a nasty fight on the 31st when the Germans attacked our trenches the native troops on both sides fled and the Germans got all round, I found myself shot at front flank and rear, then the coalboxes began and played hell, my squadron suffered very extremely so did all the cavalry my regiment lost 8 officers, 4 in my squadron Payne Gallwey killed. I don't know how many men but a lot I have seen hit by a fragment of a 'coalbox' and have 2 holes which hurt a great deal but only because the pieces are still inside, in my thigh high up and in my riding muscle. I cannot walk and had to be carried out. I spent one night in a very comfortable train and am now here and bar two small holes I am very fit, hale & hearty. I am worse hit than last time but feel better. We have had a hard time. Basil Blackwood is also wounded my poor Regt. has again suffered and my squadron has lost 4 officers out of 5 who were together of 30th and I cannot say how many men. Those high explosive German shells are bot cricket. We badly want men out here.

Best Love – I expect to be home in a day or two – yours

Francis