[April 1916]

Dear Sister

Just a line trusting you are quite well as it leaves me alright excepting a cold. There isn’t many here but have one.

I went to Church this morning: it was a pretty sight, everyone soldiers except the parson. The church is on the ground. There are a rare lot here, a lot under canvas besides what are in the schools.

Poor Charles Catchpole, I was sorry to hear he was dead, yet I know it must be a happy release. When his wife gets over the [unreadable] she won’t know how to fare. I expect this letter will pass yours, but it won’t make any difference. I want you to send a under vest as soon as you can please. I ought to have sent what things I could home by Poole, but I was in a bit of a bustle at the last and the old lady is so slow. I left a good under vest there. This one what I have on is getting dirty. I had a good mind to send it home when I was at Bury. I am some glad I didn’t do I should have been dead now I believe, for we are stripped into our shirts sometimes drilling no matter how cold it is.

You will let me know if you do get any allowance as soon as you can. If you don’t soon get any I must ask about it. I will send you the cost of postage back for what you send and the money for a shirt if you have to buy one. I haven’t been off the grounds today. I went to town yesterday afternoon. It is alright going down, it is awful getting back – it is uphill all the way for 2 miles. My arm don’t feel so bad now. They tell me the worst is to come. It is worst after it have been done a fortnight.

We go for a route march every Friday. I like that better than stamping about at home. There was 600 of us went out Friday close to Waldershare. I have seen some funny things since I have been here. Remember me to old Walter C and tell him there is some funny ploughs here. They only plough about 2 or 3 inches deep. That’s about all the soil there is then it is chalk.

There are 31 in the room where I am, so I have plenty of bedmates. I haven’t seen W Frost yet. If he is at Dover, he isn’t in our regiment. I don’t expect there are different regiments. It is handy we can come and write here in the YMCA – everything free of charge except stamps. There had need be something, other things are dear enough, but we must be pleased to think we are alive and well. We have to go to the canteen for every little thing we want, and they charge us too.

Remember me to anyone who should ask for me. I keep thinking more about the time when I shall come home, more so than I did when I was at Ipswich. I wish I didn’t then the time wouldn’t be so long. Well old girl, I think this is about all this time. With love to all from Bro,

George

I wrote to Clarance; I suppose he is at Felixstowe. Be sure and put my regimental number on my letters and parcels for the future like this:

*Pri. G. Pinkney 28923, No 8 Company, 6 Batt Royal Fusiliers, Duke York Schools, Dover*