

Private Collection

Lance Corporal R.J.(Reg) Palmer, "C" Company, 1st RGLI

Reg Palmer lived in the Amballes, St. Peter Port. On 2nd December 1917 his mother wrote to his brother Ron (89190 Bdr. R. Palmer, 9th Divisional Ammunition Column, RFA).

*Amballes Road
St. Johns
Guernsey*

2nd December 1917

Dear Ron

We have not received your letter yet this week, but Edith ran down this morning and told us she had received one from you, and that you had been busy shifting again, also that you are in good health which we are thankful to hear. I am also glad to say that we are all quite well at home, but a little anxious to hear from Reg as I think Hilda told you the last we had from him was Saturday 24th and it was written on the 14th. Certainly he warned us that we mustn't worry if we didn't hear from him for a few days, as he expected to be busy, but we see by the papers that they went into action shortly after that and that there has been a few casualties which you will see in the W.P (or N.P for newspaper?) but we've been told that C.Coy. came out fairly well with but few casualties and you know dear Ron that is Reg's company, of course being an NCO he would have many duties to perform and very little time to write, which was what he knew when he warned us, so we are hoping to get news from him on Tuesday, there is one thing about it, there's lots of people the same as us, and the postman assured me that very few letters have come through from France this week. Well, dear Ron when I see the date of this letter it reminds me that this year is nearly out, and I can hardly believe it, for with all how the time does fly! It really seems to me that Xmas has no sooner past than it is with us again, and as Tom said in his letter to me, if they really run the leaves every twelvemonth we shall be soon talking about having you here in August. We had a laugh when we read it, for let us hope you will all be home then and this dreadful war ended. What do you say dear? (Give Tom our kind regards)

Aunt Em had a letter from Cec yesterday he is out of hospital and expects soon to join his unit, he says he is feeling quite himself again, and certainly his letter is very cheerful. He sends you his kind regards, he certainly wasn't as fortunate as J. Giraud, for he was sent back to England through the same complaint as Cecil's, and he is here in Guernsey now for I saw him in Church on Sunday, his mother told me it was because the doctors found his heart weak, but Aunt Em says its because he is an Officer. (Bow Wow).

Well dear Ron our Vicar left here by the Wednesday evening boat, and the new Candidate arrived here yesterday and is preaching to-day. Mr. Burton went to Church this morning and he thought him a very good preacher, he is about 35 years of age but we don't know if he is married or single, if he is single we can make up our minds for some fun for all the girls will be setting their caps at him, especially as young are so scarce here just now. Now Dear I must close with fond love and best wishes from Dad and Hilda, and all Aunts & Uncles, and fondest and best XXXXXX from your loving Mother.

XXXXX God bless you dear

Reg Palmer had been dead for four days when his mother received his last letter. He was killed on 20th November 1917, one of only three men lost by the RGLI on the first day of Cambrai. He has no known grave.