

LETTER FROM NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA - TUNISIA 1943



Foreword

Jim Beizsley



Albert James Beizsley 1913 - 1996
Marie Shapcott Thomas 1920 - 1996

Mum and Dad were married on 3rd September 1940 and Dad was enlisted into Unit D of the Welsh Guards 2 days later on 5th September 1940.

The first months of training were spent at New Barn School, Whyteleaf, Surrey. The training continued for the next 2 years until February 1943. Dad wrote regularly from addresses in Wimbledon, Esher, Hounslow, Berkhamstead, Uxbridge and Hampstead.

My sister, Ann Marguerite, was born on 27th April 1942. My turn came after the war on 19th April 1947.

It was from Hampstead that Dad left on 4th February 1943 for the Clyde where he set sail with his comrades in the 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards on 6th February bound for North Africa. They landed at Algiers on 16th February 1943 to spend the next 12 months on active service in what became known as the North African Campaign.

By the end of February the 3rd Battalion arrived in Tunisia where they would see many parts of the country. By the middle of May Tunis fell and the remainder of the time was taken up in rest areas or training in both Tunisia and Algeria.

During the first week of February 1944 the 3rd Battalion set sail again and landed at Naples in Italy. Dad finally returned to England on 8th August 1945 and finally a Class 'A' release 4th May 1946.

I recall during my childhood seeing a cardboard box tied up with brown string high on a shelf in a wardrobe. I undid the box and saw lots of letters inside but felt it inappropriate to pry any further. It was not until after the death of Mum and Dad in 1996 that I knew the true contents of that box. How I wished I could have shared the contents of the box with them.

Immediately after their death I started to read the letters in awe and knew in an instant that they needed to be preserved and celebrated. This then was the start of cataloguing, scanning, typing and recording of the letters.

The emergence of the internet has enabled me to piece together more details about the North African Campaign whilst the Regimental HQ of the Welsh Guards has supplied additional information.

In October 2009 my wife, Celia and I landed at Monastir. Our base was at Mahdia to the south but during the week of our stay we managed to retrace my father's footsteps visiting all the key places including the Massicault Cemetery where Guardsman Ellis Davies Davison was buried. Referring to 'Davidson' in many of Dad's letters he was a comrade and the boyfriend of my Mother's sister but unfortunately died in the battle at Hammam Lif.

This journey pays homage to Mum and Dad, my heroes.



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Key Dates

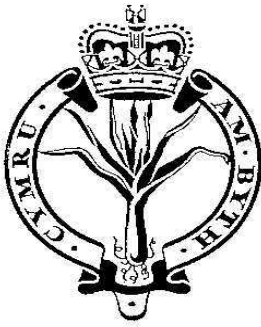
- 16th February 1943 3rd Battalion landed at Algiers
- 24th February 1943 the Battalion had crossed Algeria and arrived at El Aroussa and Sidi Ayed which are about 20 miles south of Mejez el Bab, Tunisia.
- 2nd March 1943 moved from Béja to the Front Line, Grenadier Hill (Hill 250) Military name for Djebel Bou Mouss overlooking Medjez el Bab.
- 14th March 1943, held Grenadier Hill
- 4-8th April 1943 3rd Battalion from Sidi Youssef to El Ala via Makthar
- 5th May 1943 British forces break through the defences of the 5th Panzerarmee to the South of Tunis.
- 7th May 1943 Tunis falls to British First Army.
- 8th May 1943 Hammam Lif, near Tunis at 3.30pm 3rd Battalion given task of taking the hill.
- 9th May 1943 Grombalia
- 9th May 1943 The unconditional surrender of all axis troops in Tunisia takes at 11am.
- 10th May 1943 The British First Army reaches Hammamet.
- 11th May 1943 Nabeul
- 12th May 1943 Bou Ficha
- 15th-18th July 1943 Saint-Germain
- Sousse, 3rd Battalion stationed here until August 1943
- 15th Jan 1944 moved to Philippeville

Service -

Home 2 years 153 days,
North Africa 1 year
Italy 1 year 187 days
Home 268 days -
Demobbed May 1946

Total 5 years 243 days

3rd Battalion Welsh Guards



The 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards was formed at Beavers Camp, Hounslow on the 24 October 1941, under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel A M Bankier DSO OBE MC from the Holding Battalion, which had itself been formed in the Spring of 1941, under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel W D C Greenacre MVO.

The Battalion sailed for North Africa on the 5th February 1943, landing in Algiers on the 16th February they did a three mile swank-march through the town and found, unexpectedly that they had a further fourteen miles to go. On the 24th February they moved by "Hommes 30-Chevaux 12" trucks and then by Battalion transport to El Aroussa, which is twenty miles south of Medjez El Bab, where they joined the 1st Guards Brigade on the 1st March.

The 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards started to play their part in North Africa; the 8th Army had driven Rommel back through Cyrenaica and Tripolitania and invested the Mareth Line. A series of fortifications on the Southern boundary of Tunisia. From the North the Axis Forces were threatened by the First Army and the United States 2nd Corps. In order for the Brigade to allow an attack to be made on the enemy flank it was necessary for the Allies to capture the rugged hills on either side of Fondouk Gap, a feature about 1,000 yards wide through which passes the road to the coastal plain.

1st Guards Brigade was to capture the hills to the North of the Gap; the 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards was to carry out the opening assault. On the night of the 8th April Battalion Headquarters and all companies except Number One Company were dug in near the higher ground west of the river bend, Number One Company was across the river on a knoll, acting as the advance-guard to the Battalion.

The following morning the 9th soon came, the Battalion stood two at 0500 hours, and by 0630 hours the Battalion was to advance and capture the whole El Rhorab feature. The Battalion soon came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire, as they pushed on the fire increased and they had many casualties before they finally stopped at the foothills. Machine gun and mortar were hidden in the hills, and carried out some unanswerable damage. With every attempt to get forward casualties multiplied. The Battalion reached the top and the enemy surrendered. Casualties for the 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards were 9 Officers and 105 other ranks.

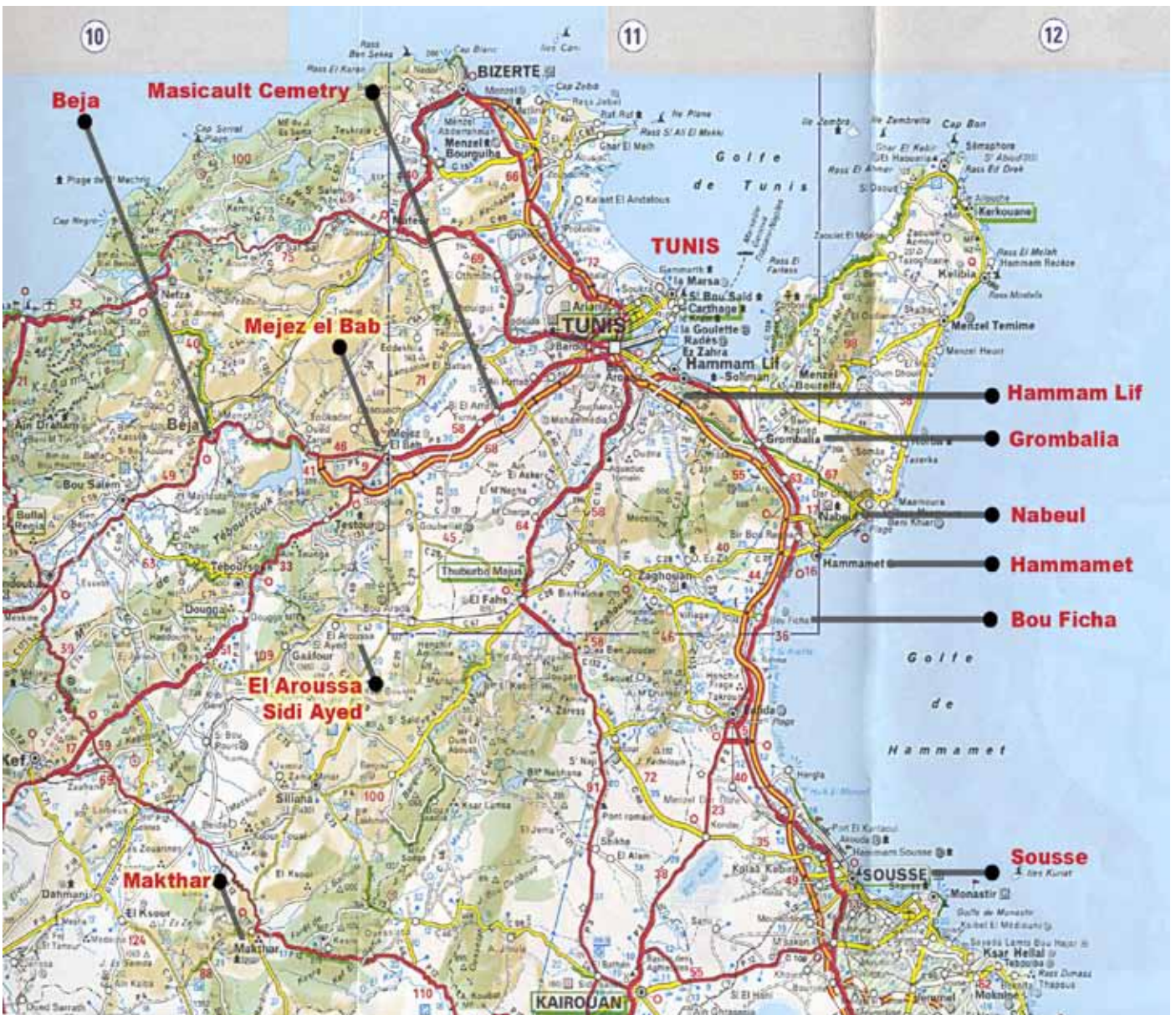
With the pursuit continuing it was not until the 8th May 1943 that the 3rd Battalion was involved once again, in which the 6th Armoured Division they were serving reached the approaches to the town of Hammam Lif. Here the enemy was strongly placed, in the town itself. The Battalion was ordered to capture the town which they did and were completely successful but with high price. Casualties were 24 killed or died of wounds and 50 wounded. The following day the armour attacked the town and forced the enemy to withdraw three days later the cease-fire came through and the campaign as over. The 3rd Battalion spent the rest of 1943 in North Africa, spending it in different areas such as Sousse and Constantine in Algeria

Maps

Algeria



Tunisia



Dates of Letters 1943

JANUARY

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DECEMBER

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Extract from letter sent January 1944 recounting experience during the previous year in North Africa

.....When we landed at Algiers on Tuesday 14th (sic 16th) February not very impressed at my first sight of Algiers. When we were waiting to form up an officer asked me if we had brought any mail. He been there a month, not received any. I thought that wasn't so good. Then we set off, told we were to march around the town. Then to a transit camp for a bit. Which they said was only six miles away. There wasn't any transport, ours hadn't arrived.

We marched round the town, plenty of uphill, because Algiers is on a hill. The people lined the pavements cheering. Then off we went to march to the camp. We had done about 10 miles when someone in the R.A.S.E stationed there shouted. "You want to get on a up there, Germans are pushing them back." That was four hundred miles away, he'd got nothing to worry about. Anyway we kept marching, everyone annoyed because they told us it was only six miles. Eventually when everybody was on their knees we got there, an old wine making farm, we had marched 20 miles. Still I was pleased to be able to do it, when men who always march were falling out. Myself and Egerton always used to riding.

Was hoping for a chance to get to Algiers, but our transport and carriers arrived the next day. After six days there, time taking up eating oranges and tangerines. Was a plantation of oranges by the side of us. We set off back in carriers for a six days a ride to Beja, six hundred miles away. Between five and six hundred anyway, a rough guess. All spare space was filled with oranges. They lasted till we got there.

Worst roads I've ever seen, over the mountains a lot has been killed, but we came through without any casualties. Scenery was a good all the way up. Little Arab children came running after us and shouting for *biscuits* or *bisquay*. That's how it sounded to us. We bought eggs off them, had to be careful we don't eat too many.

All together it was a good ride till the fifth day. We pulled into a little Arab Village for the night. The *big noise*, an Arab, offered Egerton and another officer a part of his house for the night. So we slept there, it was quite clean. Some wine was got from what somewhere, we had a sing song. Some sergeants were invited. What we couldn't make out though was the Arab, kept hanging about. We found out after a bit he wanted to lock us in. After a bit we persuaded him to go to bed. But we slept with revolvers handy just in case. We were near the front now, and you cannot really trust any Arabs. Officer was taking no chances. As it happened nothing occurred. The next stage of the journey had to be travelled by night. There was a road called Messersmichtdt Alley. It was a straight road and he used to dive bomb it.

There was plenty of burnt-out vehicles at the side of the road. But we got through OK and arrived just behind the lines, spent one day there, when Egerton and myself had to go in a carrier with number 4 company to look for some Germans. We got to where the troubles was and waiting for the company to arrive. Got talking to some Line Regiment chaps who were already there. Better not mention any names. When they see the rest of the company arrived they said, here comes the chaps to see them off, they will give Jerry something to think about. They kept on praising the Guards up. I was saying yes and no, but they didn't know what I was thinking. Eventually when we pushed on, expecting an attack any minute, it got dark, and Guards were posted for the night. Told if we were attacked to stop till the last minute, then run for it. Egerton had his bed put out by the side of the carrier, I was sleeping just behind. A had to do a turn of guard. Shall never forget it, was a foolish question. I asked Egerton what about his bed, shall I pack it up before we leave, if attacked. Thought since, there wouldn't be any time for anything like that. But Egerton answered innocently enough, just leave it.

Luckily nothing happened that night. And in the morning we had orders to withdraw. Back in the battalion, they all thought we should have our first bit of fighting. But we didn't. After that we had to move off to a defensive position at a place called Grenadier hill. There we had our first taste of shelling. Got relieved there after being dived bomb once.....

Extract from letter sent February 1944 recounting experience during the previous year in North Africa

.....Will try and finish the last episode in the Tunisian campaign, and where unfortunately Davidson was killed. Finished last time where we camped for the night in pouring rain. It was on top of a big Hill. Had a clear view of Tunis burning in the distance. I pictured it the same as I have read in history books. The victors watching a fallen City. At first light next morning, we were ready to be off again. Having been told it was best to keep going and finish the campaign, rather than let Germans dig in and prolong the campaign, although we had been at it for five days. As it turned out we were able to cut him off before he could retreat into the hills at Cape Bon.

As we set off in the morning, we could see a lot of hills in the distance, I thought the Germans could have played hell with us while we were advancing to these hills. Halfway to them, the C.O. called Egerton to him and told him he wanted him to take two sections of carriers between two hills that we could see about three mile away. He was to wireless back. So Egerton gets us together to tell us. Just as we were about to start, a message came from brigade headquarters to cancel it. Was we pleased. The battalion was ordered to move on, carriers leading. Had plenty of rough ground, because most of the bridges were blown up.

Gone about three miles when the battalion was ordered to stop, while a reconnaissance was made. Our carrier always being on a reccy as we call it. That means going on ahead to find out if or where there is any enemy.

All was well till we came to a big hill at Hammam Lif. A German machine-gun post opened up at us from the top of the hill. There is about four carriers on a reccy. He didn't fire at the one Egerton and myself was in. We were ordered to take cover in the olive grove at the foot of the hill. The rest of the battalion were brought up on foot. Meanwhile, me and the driver got cracking on a trench. It was about 12 noon when we got there.

A company of men were sent up the hill to try and get it. It was full of German machine-gun posts and snipers. That company was pinned-down by fire and couldn't move. So another company was sent a different way. Neither of them were Davidson's company, but it was dark before anything could be done. So we arranged a guard for our vehicle between us. That was 12 hours between four of us. Driver, Signaller, myself, and a D.R. who is always riding behind the carrier. Few bullets came through the woods, but well above our heads. I slept most of my turn off duty, a court martial crime if found sleeping. But there were a lot or was a lot of vehicles in the olive grove then, each of the person responsible for guarding it.

Then came the morning, the Germans sending over electric fired six barrel mortars at half-hour intervals. No one was killed, but nearly every time there was a shout for a stretcher. Mostly shrapnel wounds. At about 10am I spotted Davidson as he was passing our carrier. Had a good talk about the usual, hoping it would soon be over. Not saying much about the hill which had to be cleared of Germans. Forgotten exactly what was said. Then he went off somewhere. Meanwhile Edgerton sent for us with the carrier.

We moved out to the entrance of wood. I just noticed Davidson stood behind a wall watching the hill. Waited there for a bit, but we wasn't wanted, so we moved back to our trench. Next I heard that Davidson's Company had to go up the hill and another company to go into the town of Hamman Lif under the cover of dark. Edgerton's carrier wasn't wanted, only a couple to go up the hill as far as they could with ammunition and bring back wounded.

The R.A.P. was just to the left of us. Eventually the Germans gave away about 2pm the next day. We moved into Hammam Lif. I heard that Davidson had been wounded and that the M.O didn't give him much hope, was told me by a servant who was in the R.A.P. when he was brought in. Davidson asked to have some water but he was wounded in the stomach. The M.O. wouldn't allow him to have it.

After that we pushed on to make a drive to Hammamet. That's from the coast at Hammam Lif to the coast at Hammamet. Lorries were ablaze at the side of the road, what the Germans and Italians had set fire to a before leaving them. Put up at a farm that night because we had followed too close, prisoners were roaming about with no one looking after them. So we collected them, and had a few hours sleep till first light. In between time I had to go as a D.R. for Egerton as from Hamman Lif.

Kicked off again next morning for Hammamet. Excuse me darling always get the names of those towns wrong. Nothing much happened there the town was waiting to give in. That's where we started having cars of our own. The prisoners were so numerous, they made their own way to the cage. Told you before about when Egerton asked me to go and get a car that was full of Italian officers. Then we were on our way again making for Nabeul. Rumours were coming through that if the Germans didn't give up we were going bomb and shell them more than ever.

That night we could see great bonfires farther up in the hills where the Germans were setting fire to their kit. We knew then it wouldn't be long. Passed through Nabeul to another place where the Germans had been using as a barracks. Bou Fichta was the name. There we heard it was ceasefire as from 12 midnight. Celebrated it the next day by a dip in the Mediterranean for the first time. To cut a long story short darling, the officers of the brigade Welsh Coldstream and Grenadiers had a dinner at Nabeul. Halfway through the brigadier announced that he had sent a telegram to the King, to the effect that they were going to drink a toast to him to commemorate the great victory in Africa. I was Mess waiting that night. Think we all stood or sat quiet for a space of time after that.

Another little incident, when we were putting the blackout up, we passed some bottles of wine through the window to be collected later. The servants were making sure they got their share. When we left there we went to Sousse, from there to Constantine. The rumours that went about, mostly saying we were going home. You probably remember Pen.....

Albert James Belzsley - medals



Africa Star - 1st Army



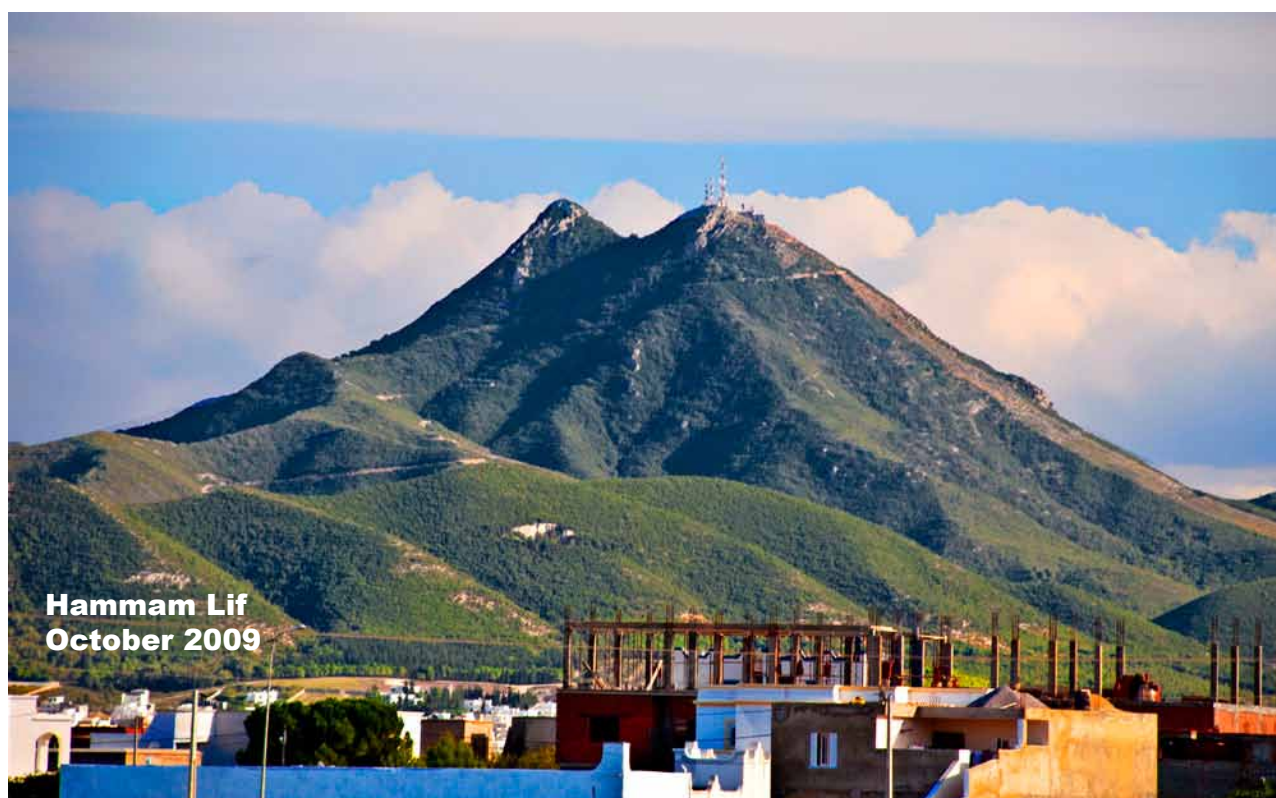
39-45 Star



War Medal 39-45



Italy Star



February 1943

18-2-43

"Had a quiet voyage, no sign of enemy activity."

"We use francs now, get fifty a week. Which equals ten shillings, seems plenty to spend. But can soon spend it. Only allowed to draw that amount."

"Soap is very scarce here, exchange it for tangerines or oranges, get anything up to twenty francs for a tablet. I got some extra Palmolive, when we were on the boat. Bought eggs this morning. They are six pence each, pretty dear. Nothing much else to spend our money on. Just as well spend it on oranges & eggs."



Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
c/o A.P.O. 4505

Tuesday 2/2/43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Received your two letters to-day. You don't seem very pleased in your last one. Don't blame you darling, it's a long dragging job. Suppose it will come to an end sometime. Expect this will be the last letter from here. Won't be long before you will be saying, "Oh out abroad." When the people ask you where your husband is. Roll on when you can say he is up on the allotment. If it's before nine o'clock," after that I shall or we shall be up at the pub. Complicated Sunshine, but I think you will be able to make some sense out of it. Try and ring you up tomorrow, about 7.15. Didn't hear the whisper on the phone that night. But I take it for granted that you would say something if there wasn't anyone there. Of course I may ring you up after we leave here. Always be a chance till we get on the boat.

Thanks for the offer of cigs darling. Will let you know later if I want any. Believe there is a system for getting them cheaper to send to forces abroad. Tax free, think I've seen it in a shop somewhere. But will let you know if I get pushed for them. But don't pay the full price darling. We sure to get cigarettes.

Well my everything, cannot think of anything very interesting to write now. Start another tomorrow. Meanwhile darling, just want to say look after yourself. Try & get interested in something. Do anything you like, just keep on the path & look after Marguerite. It won't be easy darling, I have full confidence in you. As I hope you have in me. And with a bit of luck, we shall get what we want eventually. Nice quiet life darling, just about explains what I want. Be seeing you darling.

All my love to you & baby.

I.T.A.L.Y.D Your ever loving husband Bert

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
c/o A.P.O. 4505

Pre 16th Feb 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Received your three letters from you Thursday. Writing this on the boat. Not read your letters properly yet, may have a bit more time later on. Don't know if the censor will pass the sentence where we are. Very difficult to know what to write. Don't worry darling if I omit any affection in this letter. You know how I feel towards you & baby. And I hope baby is improving, might do better when the weather comes.

Did not have time to write a few lines in the parcel. Hoped you would understand. Davidson is a few tables away. See he has got the parcel and paper out. Get you to tell them at Lydney when you hear from me darling. Shall write first to you. Will have to close for a bit darling. This letter is sent free, so will get it away. Start another soon as possible. Be seeing you.

All my love to you & baby.

Cheerio Darling

I.T.A.L.Y.D Your ever loving husband Bert

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley
7741

H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
c/o A.P.O. 4505

18-2-43 Thursday
My Darling Wife &
Daughter

We can now put the date on the letters, which will be a lot better. Still unable to say exactly where we are. Plenty of tangerines & oranges growing here. The people are mostly Arabic. They walk about in any old rags, look very dirty. I don't get anywhere near them if possible. Had a quiet voyage, no sign of enemy activity.

Afraid the letters a long time arriving darling. By what some of the fellows say, who have been here for about six weeks. Shall get quite excited when I receive a letter from you. To see how you & baby are getting on. Haven't been away long, but it seems like years. Health is OK, hope you are the same.

Remember what I said, just before I came off leave. Where I thought we should be going. That's the place darling, if you remember. You said you would be following the daily paper more when I was away. Not possible to send airgraphs etc like the other people. Its a bit different for us when on active service. That's how it looks up to now darling. Don't think we will get much news here.

The war might finish before we know. That would be a pleasant surprise. Not seen Davidson since we arrived, shall only see him on rare occasions now. We use francs now, get fifty a week. Which equals ten shillings, seems plenty to spend. But can soon spend it. Only allowed to draw that amount. If its possible, I will transfer the other five shilling to your allowance. May take a long time though darling, before you receive it. Wish I could get some of these tangerines to you & Marguerite. Bet you could enjoy them darling. Wonder what Marguerite is doing now. Won't be long now before you will be writing to tell me she can walk. This paper is like you use to send to me, had a couple sheets off one of the boys. Unable to get any till they set a N.A.S.F.I. up here. Think I can fill the other side.

Wish I could get some of these tangerines to you & Marguerite. Bet you could enjoy them darling. Wonder what Marguerite is doing now. Won't be long now before you will be writing to tell me she can walk. This paper is like you use to send to me, had a couple sheets off one of the boys. Unable to get any till they set

Gdsn Affectionately 7741
H.Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
c/o A.P.O. 4505

Thursday 18 Feb 1943 *A. J. Beizsley*

My Darling Wife & Daughter

We can now put the date on our letters, which will be a lot better. Still unable to say where we actually are. Plenty of tangerines & oranges growing here. The people are mostly Arabic. They walk about in any old rags, look very dirty. I don't get anywhere near them if possible. Had a quiet voyage, no sign of enemy activity. Afraid the letters are a long time arriving darling. By what some of the fellows say, who have been here about six weeks. Shall get quite excited when I receive a letter from you. To see how you & baby are getting on. Haven't been away long, but it seems like years. Health is O.K., hope you are the same. Remember what I said, just before I came off leave. Where I thought we should be going. That's the place darling, if you remember. You said you would be following the daily paper more when I was away. Not possible to send airgraphs etc like the other people. Its a bit different for us when on active service. That's how it looks up to now darling. Don't think we shall get much news here. The war might finish before we know. That would be a pleasant surprise. Not seen Davidson since we arrived, shall only see him on rare occasions now. We use francs now, get fifty a week. Which equals ten shilling, seems plenty to spend. But can soon spend it. Only allowed to draw that amount. If its possible, I will transfer the other five shilling to your allowance. May take a long time though darling, before you receive it. Wish I could get some of these tangerines to you & Marguerite. Bet you could enjoy them darling. Wonder what Marguerite is doing now. Won't be long now before you will be writing to tell me she can walk. This paper is like you use to send to me, had a couple sheets off one of the boys. Unable to get any till they set a N.A.S.F.I. up here. Think I can fill the other side.

a N. A.A. F. I up here.
Think I can fill the
other side.

I compared the living
conditions here, to
home. Its got to be
seen to appreciate
the way of living
in England. If I am
lucky enough to get
home OK. That quiet
life I wanted darling.
A home with you &
baby will be enough.
Tea time now, will
continue later.

Plenty of bully beef &
biscuits these days.
Xxx. Rations not
arrived yet. Add a few
more lines. Where
we are sleeping, use
to be a wine making
place. The big vats
are still here. Wine is
the chief drink here,
not had any yet.
Might try it a bit later
on.

Soap is very scarce
here, exchange
it for tangerines
or oranges, get
anything up to twenty
francs for a tablet.
I got some extra
Palmolive, when we
were on the boat.
Bought eggs this
morning. They are six
pence each, pretty
dear. Nothing much
else to spend our
money on. Just as well spend it on oranges & eggs.

This will be the best letter yet darling. Shall have to write to Lydney. Only wrote two up to now. Not a lot of time now. No lights at night, gets dark about seven. Its winter until the end of the month. Plenty of rain, but nice & warm when the sun comes out. Remembered your birthday might come before you receive this. If so darling, you can be assured I shall think of it on March 11th. Don't write and tell me it's on the 9th. Will think of both, will get the right one then. Also Marguerites on 27th April, her first birthday. Roll on darling, shall be home sometime, with a bit of luck. Close for now

Continue writing another to-night.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio Darling

Your ever loving husband Bert

(21)

I compared the living conditions here, to home. Its got to be seen to appreciate the way of living in England. If I am lucky enough to get home O.K. That quiet life I wanted darling. A home with you & baby will be enough. Tea-time now, will continue later. Plenty of bully beef & biscuits these days. xxx. Rations not arrived yet. Add a few more lines. Where we are sleeping, use to be a wine making place. The big vats are still here. Wine is the chief drink here, not had any yet. might try it a bit later on. Soap is very scarce here, exchange it for tangerines or oranges. get anything up to twenty francs for a tablet. I got some extra palmolive, when we were on the boat. Bought eggs this morning. They are sixpence each, pretty dear. Nothing much else to spend our money on. just as well spend it on oranges & eggs. This will be the best letter yet darling. Shall have to write to Lydney. Only wrote two up till now. Not a lot of time now. No lights at night, gets dark about seven. Its winter till the end of the month. Plenty of rain, but nice & warm when the sun comes out. Remembered your birthday might come before you receive this. If so darling, you can be assured I shall think of it on March 11th. Don't write & tell me its on the 9th. Will think of both, will get the right one then. Also Marguerites on the 27th April, her first birthday. Roll on darling, shall be home sometime, with a bit of luck. Close for now.

Continue writing another to-night.
all my love to you & baby
Your ever loving Husband
Bert xxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxx



Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
c/o A.P.O. 4505

20-2-43 Saturday

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Saturday afternoon, but it doesn't seem like it. No chance of a weekend like it use to be. Only thing this is good for, is the way we eat up till now. Oranges, dates, figs & eggs. Watching for any opportunity to send some lemons, dates & figs. Think its possible if we are here long enough. Lemons would be the thing to send , they would be more welcome than the rest I think. We are allowed to say we are in North Africa. Which was pretty obvious if have received my letters.

Many happy returns for your birthday darling. Believe I forgot to say it in my last letter. Writing paper is very scarce here darling. Could you send me some. Make it small pages, that will probably be the best. About two pads will do if you can pack them. Met Davidson in the village last night. We had a couple of port wines, which was OK. Only a couple darling, because we have to careful. Haven't got the measure of it, like we have in England. I mean we don't know how much we can take. Only officers & full sargeants allowed a bottle a week or something like that. Which needless to say is very unfair. Considering its an opportunity to obtain it cheap. I know some would overdo it, but its no reason to victimise everyone. Some of which are equally capable of having only as much is good for them. Still that's not very interesting to you darling. But you would probably know that arrangement won't suit me.

Have you been to Lydney yet, doubt if the weather is suitable in England at present. Rained like the H..... here to-day. Think I will close now darling if I send my letters more often & not so long. Be a better chance of at least most of them getting through.

Cheerio darling.

All my love to you & baby.

Cheerio Darling. Your ever loving husband Bert

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
c/o A.P.O. 4505

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

23-2-43 Tuesday

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Just a few hurried lines, won't be much. Everything is OK very warm today. Expect its cold over there, being only February. This is the kind of weather we want for Marguerite. Wouldn't I like to see you both. Only been away a month, seems like years. Guess it will roll around quietly. There isn't much interesting to write. Be plenty when I get your first letter. Moving again in a day or two, so we are pretty busy. Please excuse the very short letter darling. Write more when I have a bit more time.

Cheerio darling.

All my love to you & baby.

Cheerio Darling. Your ever loving husband Bert

March 1943

30-3-43

"One little item that might interest you. We get seven francs a week for laundry allowance. Not a lot but it mounts up. The franc was three hundred to the £ when we first came. But its dropped to two hundred now & likely to drop more. That won't effect me much."





Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
c/o A.P.O. 4505

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

8-3-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Still pushed for writing paper. All I hope is that it's readable when you get it. Thinking of you & baby always. At present we have come back from the line for a week. Not seen Jerry yet. Went out one night to look for him. But he cleared out before we got there. General opinion is that we shall soon clear him out of North Africa.

Not yet received any letters. Get them any time now. Food is very good, have to cook our own. Enjoy it better when the cooks don't mess with it. To get the writing a bit clearer. Put something at the back of it darling. Soon be your birthday darling. Hope I shall be home for your next. Bet baby is up to something new. Pity about this paper, afraid you will have a job to read it. Up till now, think I have a few stories to tell when I get back home. Well darling close for now. Look after yourself & baby.

All my love to you & baby.

Your ever loving husband Bert

P.S. Think you can now send air mail darling.

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

10-3-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Write another letter, use up the paper as I get it. Air mail is to start shortly ought to get it quicker. My mail is probably at the battalion. Going back Saturday, hope there will be some there. Expect you are browned off by now darling. Sure I am, but keeping hoping it won't be long before I shall be with you & baby. Just hear there is a new address now, if so will let you know later. Excuse my spelling darling. The above address will find us in any case.

Wednesday to-day, they all seem alike. Thought of your birthday in case it was yesterday. Do the same tomorrow, then I shall be sure. Close for now.

All my love to you & baby.

Your ever loving husband Bert

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

16-3-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Received fifteen letters from you, three from Lydney & one from Chepstow. Was very relieved when I read in your last letter that Marguerite was better & out of hospital. I've had all your letters by the numbers up to seven darling. The last was posted on March 2nd. Received it today so that's good going. Very warm today must be the start of summer. Was good to read that you will wait patiently until I return Sunshine. This is the biggest test, it cannot be forever.

Have read all your letters darling, but can still find them interesting to read a few more times yet. Writing paper is still very short. If I don't write to anyone else except you & baby & Lydney its because I am short of paper. Will try & drop a few lines to Beat. I had a very nice letter from her. Get this away soon as possible to let you know that I have received your mail. Will send another airgraph soon as we get one.

At present Sunshine I am satisfied that you & baby are OK. Hope you will be able to keep that way. One little item darling. Glad you refused the Old Man to sleep in our bed. Close for now.

All my love to you & baby

Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

21-3-43 Sunday 11.00am

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Sunday morning things are quiet at present. Doing the cooking this morning. Just done the rice. Put the potatoes on, which is in tins. So I got five minutes I hope. Wrote a letter to Beat, but had to put our surname on. Had forgotten hers again. Like to see a paper man come by. Bet I would make him hear if he was deaf. Is my daughter talking yet darling, sorry I mean our daughter. Should like to take her for a walk now.

Hear to-day that cigarettes are 2/6 for twenty in England. That's a bit stiff, they 8d for twenty here. But I wouldn't mind paying 2/6 to be in England. I received a 2/6 P.O. from Lydney C. Fund. Think I will keep it for that phone call I hope to soon make. Unless you & Mam have got a house by then. She said she was going to help you get one. Fred will help to move the furniture, if by chance we have had some of Old Bills antics. You know the cartoons of him. Up to his neck in mud, raining like h...., and trying to cook a bit of something. But it will all work out OK. Anyway I'm in the best of health & feeling fit, that's the most important.

The summer won't be long for you & Marguerite in England. Hope you find Newnham a bit better then. Getting near lunch time darling. Would like to get a snap of us to show you. We have dug into the bank, to make a sort of cookhouse. Put the usual signs up. The one at present is the Dorchester Hotel. Actually its a sort of officers mess. The worst they've had up till now I think. Well darling this will be one more Sunday towards seeing you. Mind you look after yourself & baby. Time will soon roll round when things are better for us. I haven't forgotten our idea of having a piano to play. Another thing I hear we have sixpence a day extra again. That makes ten pence since we came here. Ought to mount up by the end of the war.

Close now. All my love to you & baby

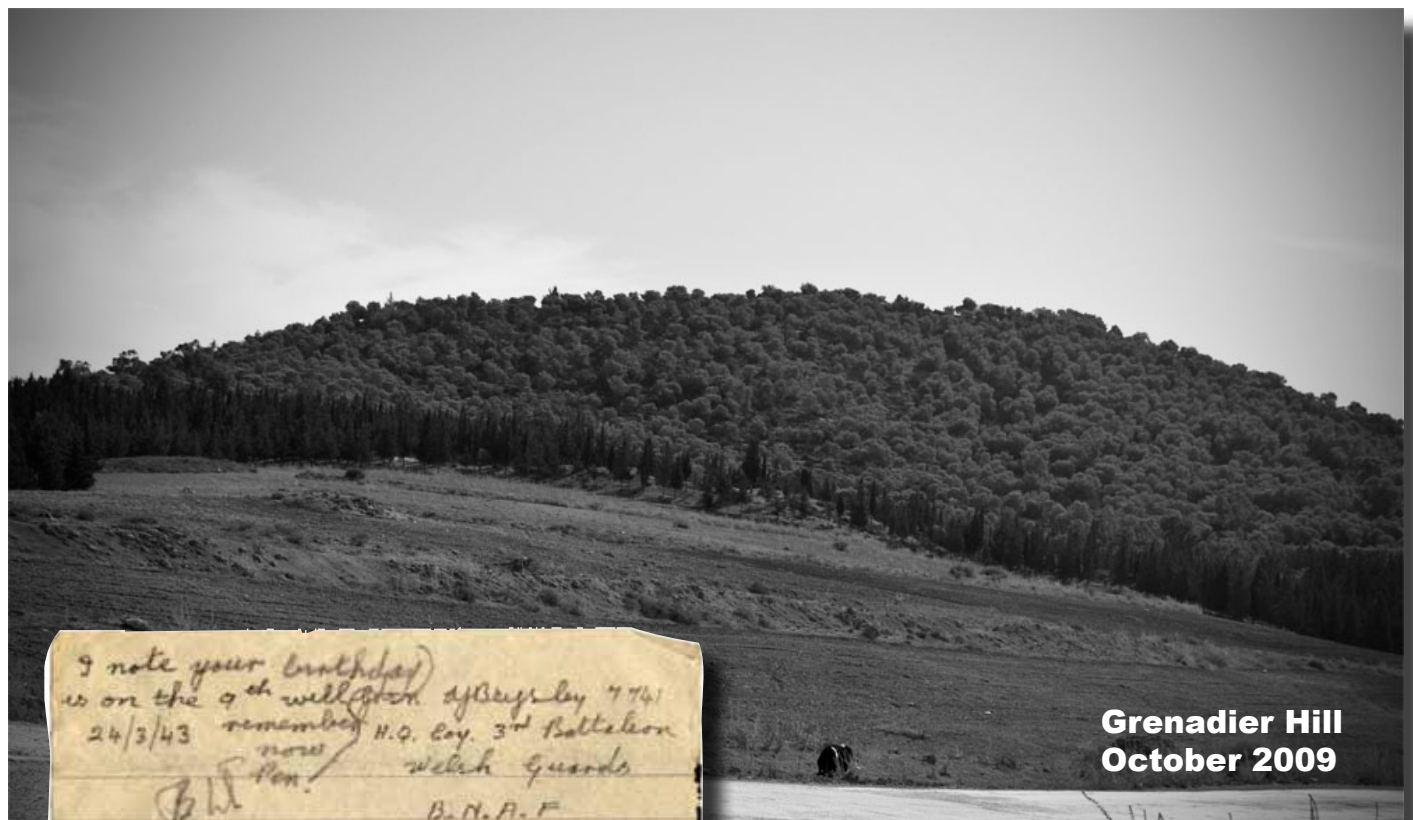
Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

24-3-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Received letters 9 & 10 yesterday. Position is very satisfactory. Would like to have been near as possible, when you were thinking that way. Marguerite looking better, glad of that. Writing this under an improvised tent to keep the sun off. We are on the top of a very famous hill. Having moved from the river



I note your birthday
is on the 9th will get on A. J. Beizsley 7741
24/3/43 remember H.Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
now Welsh Guards
Pen.
B.N.A.F

My Darling Wife & Daughter
Received letters 9 & 10
yesterday. Position is very satisfactory.
Would like to have been near as
possible, when you were thinking
that way. Marguerite looking better,
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an improvised tent, to keep the
sun off. We are on top of a very
famous hill. Having moved from
the river bank. Forgetting, I have
a bottle of beer by my side. Which
is very tasty darling. Plenty of
noise here from gun fire, but
its going in the right direction.
Expect to move back in a day
or two, where its a bit quieter.
Excuse writing darling, awkward

bank. Forgetting, I have a bottle of beer by my side. Which is very tasty darling.

Plenty of noise here from gunfire, but its going in the right direction. Expect to move back in a day or two, where its a bit quieter. Excuse writing darling, awkward position as per usual. Should see Davidson when we move back & the battalion is all together again. Better hurry darling with your teeth, or I might be home before you are fixed up. Got an idea I shall prefer you without them not that it makes much difference. Always the same Marie, to me. If there's anything I forget to comment on in your letters, you must excuse me darling. It's a bit awkward to remember it all when you get a bunch.

Remember me to your Mam, Sue, Son & Bill. Give me great pleasure to see them again. But bugger the old man, he ought to be living here. It's much the same as Foxes Bridge. The Arabs keep a few livestock, sheep, goats & cows.

(2)

position as per usual. Should see Davidson when we move back, & the battalion is all together again. Better hurry darling with your teeth, or I might be home before you are fixed up. Got an idea I shall prefer you without them not that it makes much difference always be the same Marie, to me. If there's anything I forget to comment on in your letter, you must excuse me darling. It's a bit awkward to remember it all when you get a bunch. Remember me to your Mam, Sue, Son = Bill. Give me great pleasure to see them again. But bugger the old man, he ought to be living here. It's much the same as Foxes Bridge. The Arabs keep a livestock, sheep, goats - cows

(3)

in broken down buildings. In the mornings when they come out of these huts. First out is the sheep, they sleep in a corner of the same room, then goats - dogs. Lastly comes a bundle of rags, that's the Arabs. They all sleep in the same room. Not quite so bad as Foxes Bridge. Might have been if he had his own way. Would like to hear that you have got a house darling. But it's rather a lot to expect. Sun is very hot, could do with a few of these days when I am in England. To take you = Marguerite for a penny. Preferable to one of the seaside resorts. That I hope will come later. Might have a chance to write more when we get to

Start this page to close with darling.

Look after yourself & baby all the best darling. Be seeing you

Cheerio Pen & Marguerite

Your ever loving husband Bert

Saturday 28-3-43

Sorry darling, unable to get this away. Because we were busy moving back. Well we are here & there's plenty to do. But will write later. Meanwhile everything's OK. Look after yourself.

Be seeing you

All my love to you & baby

Cheerio Pen & Marguerite

Your ever loving husband Bert

(4)

Start this page to close with darling. Look after yourself & baby all the best darling. Be seeing you
Cheerio Pen & Marguerite
your ever loving husband
Bert. XXXXVV
XXXXXXX

Sunday 28/3/43

Sorry darling, unable to get this away. Because we were busy moving back. Well we are here, & there's plenty to do. But will write later. Meanwhile everything's O.K. Look after yourself. Be seeing you

all my love to you & baby
Cheerio Pen & Marguerite
your ever loving husband
Bert XXX
XXXXXXX

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

30-3-43

Received your first air mail

My Darling Wife & Daughter

It appears we get an air mail once a week. According to a paper I have just read. Wonder if you have started sending air mail yet. Not received any mail since I received your last two. At present we are well behind the lines. But expect to move up again, any time now. Not much news to tell you darling. I am fit as can be, hope you & baby are the same. I am very browned off, not seeing you for so long. But I suppose we have to put up with that.

Wrote to Mrs Guest, but not yet handed it in. Been thinking darling, don't think I told you what BNAF means. It's fairly obvious though, we are in Africa. The next week or two will be the most important. Have kept most of the mail I have received. All of yours, but I am afraid I shall have to dispense with them. Take up too much room when you have to carry all you need for a week or two. Shall keep the last half dozen Pen.

Not much news as yet darling, but it won't be long before you will hear of the Germans being cleared out of Africa. They can send us home then. Which would be a bit of luck. The short time I have been away. Expect Marguerite has altered. But I hope to be home before she understands that I have been away. Also before you begin to feel you haven't a husband Pen. Drew two hundred francs yesterday. But won't be able to spend it for a bit.

One little item that might interest you. We get seven francs a week for laundry allowance. Not a lot but it mounts up. The franc was three hundred to the £ when we first came. But its dropped to two hundred now & likely to drop more. That won't effect me much. Be a change for us to visit a town, only Arab & French towns. Which are none to clean. Nice to see a clean street again & some shop windows. Newnham High St preferable.

1st April darling not much joking. Saw Davidson yesterday said he hadn't been able to get an air letter yet. We managed to get a drink to celebrate the meeting. Won't be able to write much for the next couple of days, on the move again. Don't be surprised if I write from Tunis the next time.

Close now Pen. Give Marguerite a kiss from me.

All my love to you & baby

Your ever loving husband Bert



April 1943

30-4-43

"We see a lot of letters written from Jerrys wives & friends they have left behind. Not able to read them though. That's in places where they have moved out in a hurry. No doubt they would be glad to finish the war to get back home. I might be wrong, there's no way of knowing. We are doing alright for sweets here. Pascall toffees & liquorice allsorts. Not bad darling for out in North Africa."





Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

1-4-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

My first attempt at an airgraph hope its wonderful. Want to try to get much on it. Received your air mail to-day. Was a very nice letter darling. The three words at the end meant a lot to me. You are all I shall ever want darling. Hope that sentence will come out plain in the photograph. Received two of these to-day, will send me to Lydney. Not yet had the writing paper, or the other kind of paper. Air mail is the only ones getting through at present. But I appear to have plenty of writing materials with me now.

You think Marguerite is going to have plenty of go in her. Will be best that way Pen. Seems that I am well ahead of Davidson in sending letters. That's how I hoped it would turn out. Wonder who will be first with these. Anyway, I am going to complete it to-night. Send it soon as possible, might be held up for a bit because we are moving tomorrow.

Writing this on my ???? by candle light. The candle is perched on the top of a full bottle of beer, which I shall drink when I have finished. Will reply to your air mail later darling. One or two things I can comment on. Hope there will be some good news for you soon.

All my love to you & baby

Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

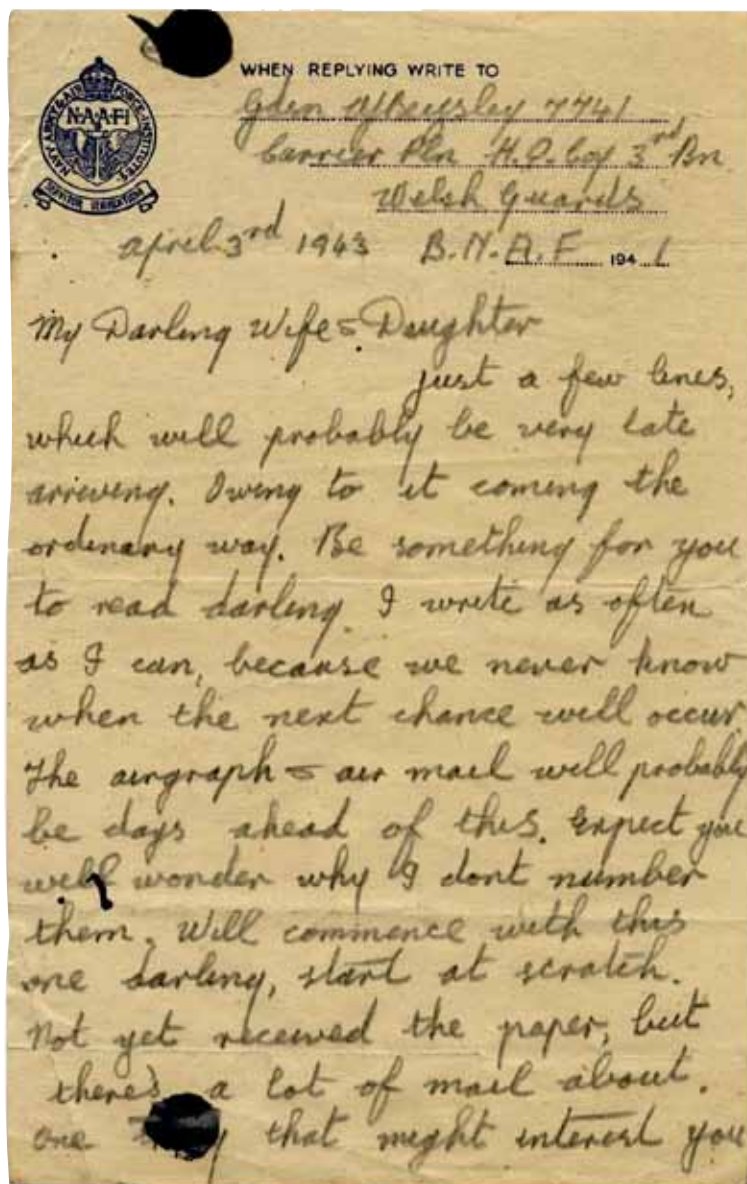
Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
Carrier Platoon
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

3-4-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Just a few lines which will probably be very late arriving. Owing to it coming the ordinary way. Be something for you to read darling. I write as often as I can because we never know when the next chance will occur. The airgraph & air mail will probably be days ahead of this. Expect you will wonder why I don't number them. Will commence with this one darling, start at scratch. Not yet received the paper, but there's a lot of mail about. One thing that might interest you.....

? pages missing



Mayfair
Newnham
Glos

14-4-43

My Darling Bert

Here I am again the second time today. Have posted an air letter earlier this evening after I put M to bed. Thought I would start this ready for posting sometime tomorrow. I've done a nice lot of washing up since put me off doing anything else tonight, take it a bit easier although its shaking on towards bedtime. That's one of your phrases isn't it darling 'shaking on'.

Mother is going to get me a tin of fruit if she can manage it & a few other odd things for the party. Mr Tew-smith asked me if I had heard from you today he said "Oh he'll be alright: nothing much doing now." I believe he had a drink or two the other night so Mrs Stevens said he told me Sunday that it made him forget things easily. I bought some rhubarb today it was 11d a 1lb now dropped to 9d a 1lb. On fourth May its dropping again to 5d. There was a picture in one of this weeks papers of a man tying his dog by his rhubarb to guard it. Said we can't take any risks now. Nearly ten now darling guess I had better get ready for bed. Goodnight Darling.

16-4-43 Very sorry I didn't continue yesterday darling but I have developed a rotten cold. Went down to Lydney in morning on the 11.30 bus & came back on the seven, we both went straight to bed after having a hot drink. Feeling a bit better today. Probably a touch of the flu. Have to go now up by the church to get on the bus, they have only a few stopping places now, didn't stop no more than half a dozen times the whole journey I should think.

When I ask M where her daddy was today she looked up at your photograph & smiled & the waved. I am writing this while she's crawling around standing by her chair at the moment. I let her crawl around now after her tea & then bath her ready for bed. I saw Enid's baby for the first time yesterday, he's a year old now, a big boy got six teeth. Enid said that when they are a twelvemonth they have to be immunised, wether you want them to be or not. It was lovely yesterday & to-day.

When I went up the street saw Bill coming down through with a horse, he said he would come for a cup of tea at one but he didn't turn up. I saw him go back up by about ten to one with the man I suppose he was helping. Suppose Sue will be here tonight she's had a letter from Davidson yesterday which took a month to come from the date stamped on the envelope also a letter from his dad today.

Fred was offered a house a couple of miles from Severn Bridge with a garden & fruit trees. 5/- a week. I think he thought it would be tot much out of the way. The owner is going to sell it now I believe I think it would have gone but perhaps its just as well to wait & get somewhere more convenient.

Better sign off now darling & get things going again. Shall go to bed again tonight as I have to be up early to go to Coleford. May post this letter this evening.

All my love & Marguerite's.

Cheerio my darling Look after yourself. I. T. A. L. Y. always.

Your loving wife & Daughter Pen & Marguerite.

P.S. Sorry I didn't mention before now that I had a letter from you this morning dated 21st March comment on it in the next. Mam Beat & Sid may come Sunday they start their holidays next week (Lucky Peoples). Shall we go to Ilfracombe when you get yours darling some future date. Mam said why don't I sell my dress as I have had the offer. Don't think I will though. Lots of love Pen

P.P.S. Mam said she had sent you a card, also Beat, hope you won't mind my not doing so darling, too late now.

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

20-4-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

I put the above date on but actually its about 7.0pm on the 19th. Thought I would do that because it won't be posted until tomorrow. Its lovely at present darling nice & cool. Only want you & baby, also a pint of beer to put the finishing touch. Went for a nice bathe in the river this afternoon, it was good. Your air mail darling continues to bring good news of you & Marguerite.

The weather is probably a lot better for you now. Mother said in one of her letters you were getting a bit slimmer. But I was glad when she added it might do you good. Please keep your chin up darling, try not to worry too much. It cannot last much longer. Tell Sue if Davidson doesn't write very often its excusable. I know he still wants to go with Sue its just that he seems a bit slow as regards to writing.

We haven't had a very easy time. Have to watch points & write when you can. Although its not so difficult as it must sound when you read it darling. Shall be thinking of you and Marguerite on 27th. I very often go back on my thoughts of our life from when we first met. Guess I was lucky to have been home while the happy event was about. Oftener still, I think of what we hope to do in the future.

The boys are singing there usual songs., which remind me of the days when I first joined the army. Before I had my first leave. Getting a bit late darling. Continue tomorrow. May get some mail, there is some about. Goodnight Pen & Marguerite

20th April

This the day darling, my birthday. Don't remind me I am thirty. Glad to say I feel fitter now than at any time. Very warm again, hope to go for a bath again this afternoon. Doubt if this will arrive before Marguerites birthday. But I hope you have been able to arrange a little tea-party. Give her a kiss from me Pen. Look after yourselves will be seeing you sometime.

All my love to you & Marguerite

Your ever loving husband Bert

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

27-4-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Its now about 6.0pm the day of our daughters birthday. Hope I shall be home for her second birthday. I tried to picture you altogether at tea time. If they all turned up, you must be having a busy time as the hostess darling. Just been reading about a dozen letters received. Mostly from you darling the new writer Wren Mary Hale stationed in Aberdeen. Surprised to receive one from her. By her letter she has grown up now. Your letters are as per usual very good. The antics that Marguerite gets up to. It is a joy to read. Glad she looks well now. And you not too browned off darling. Evidently making the best of it.

Expect it does seem a long time before I shall be home. But as I've said before the scenes change very quickly darling. The present on can change as soon as its possible. It was on my birthday I wrote last. Been very busy since, but expect a couple of days rest now. Had a wash this afternoon, got some of the dust & sand off. Makes you feel good to have a good one often as possible.

No need to A.P.O.4505 on my letters now darling. Wonder if you have your teeth, probably take some time for you to get used to them. Best of luck with them darling. The good news about N. A hasn't occurred yet darling. But Jerry must be getting a warm time. Had a letter from Fred, said the wireless had failed. If it was possible for him to be at Marguerites birthday to-day be a chance for him to have a look at it. But he might be on the wrong turn. Wish it was possible to get you a new one. Will ask Fred to keep a look out for one.

The photos of Marguerite & Robert seem to be eagerly awaited for hope they turn out alright. Probably take some time to reach here. Almost forgetting darling I received a parcel of writing paper & envelopes. They were in perfect condition, I have got plenty now. Don't need it so much with air mails about. They are a lot quicker. Have to close now. Remember me to all. Be seeing you.

All my love to you & baby

Your ever loving husband Bert

P.S. Not been ill yet darling, glad to say.

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

28-4-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Before I forget Pen. Mrs Houson was never so near the truth. As when she told you what my feelings were towards you. How's things to-day after our daughters birthday. Hope it was successful. Marguerite seems to get plenty of fresh air these days. That's probably why she is looking well. Hope it will continue. My turn to be excused for smudges darling. Its rather warm, but if a job to keep my hands try. Don't mind it though. Prefer the hot weather to the cold. About 4.0pm now getting cooler.

29th April.

Sorry darling didn't have time to finish last night. Its now about 10.0am. Rained a bit last night which is very rare these days. Not much news I can tell you. The headlines isn't likely to appear about N. A. for a few days yet. Can never tell, things are going on OK out here. Shall only send air mail or airgraphs for a bit. Continue with ordinary mail when we get more comfortable quarters. Get a few more now than when it first started. Would like to see Marguerites smile. You must be pleased darling when she starts something new. The photos of you & baby I carry are still OK. Except that they have come apart from continuously carrying them. Will have to hang them up when we settle down for a bit. Not that I want to settle down here. Lets be getting back home when the jobs finished. The smashers sisters husband has had a long time away. Takes him to get home I should think.

Remember me to your Mam, Sue, Son & Bill. I keep forgetting to mention it. Not seen Davidson for a couple of days, he is still about here somewhere. Only I get to idle to go over, same applies to him I expect. The officer he use to look after in Hampstead has arrived out here now. Don't expect he will go back to him. Remember me to Mr&Miss Tewsmith. Hope she enjoyed her birthday. Maybe she will have bought Marguerite another little toy. Excuse my cheek darling. There is one thing darling we get plenty tea out here but not so good as the ones we had. Cocoa made with milk wouldn't be so bad. Its about 11.0am Pen. Sorry I'm not there to make it. Roll on darling when those times will return. Drink a drop of tea with me if you are reading this at breakfast time.

All my love to you & baby. Hope to be with you soon. Cheerio darling.

Your ever loving husband Bert

P.S. Not been ill yet darling, glad to say.

(2)

Please keep your chin up darling. I try not to worry too much. It cannot last much longer. Tell Sue if Davidson doesn't write very often its excusable. I know he still wants to go with Sue. Its just that he seems a bit slow as regards to writing. We haven't had a very easy time. Have to watch points & write when you can. Although its not so difficult as it must sound when you read it darling. I shall be thinking of you & Marguerite on the 24th. I very often go back in my thoughts of our life from when we first met. Guess I was lucky to have been home while the happy event was about. Oftener tell, I think of what we hope to do in the future. The boys

20th April 1943

John off Bezzley?
H.Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
B.M.A.F.

My Darling Wife & Daughter

I put the above date on, but actually its about 7.0^{am} on the 19th. Thought I would do that because it wont be posted till to-morrow. Its lovely at present darling nice & cool. Only want you & baby, also a pint of beer to put the finishing touch. Went for a nice bathe in the river this afternoon, it was good. Your air mail darling continues to bring good news of you & Marguerite. The weather is probably a lot better for you now. Mother said in one of her letters you were getting a bit summer. But I was glad when she added it might do you good.

(3)

singing these usual songs, which remind me of the days when I first joined the army. Before I had my first leave. Getting a bit late darling. Continue to-morrow. May get some mail, there is some about. Good-night Pen & Marguerite xx
20th April 1943

This is the day darling, my birthday. Don't remind me I am thirty! Glad to say I feel better now than at any time. Very warm again, hope to go for a bath again this afternoon. Doubt if this will arrive before Marguerite's birthday. But I hope you have been able to arrange a little tea-party. Gave her a kiss from me Pen. Look after yourselves well be seeing you sometime.

All my love to you & Marguerite
your ever loving husband
Bert xxxxxxxxxxxx

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL

MRS. A. BEZZLEY

40 MAYHALL

NEWHAM-ON-SOVED

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ENGLAND



Mayfair
Newnham
Glos

29-4-43 (*Mum to Dad NO. 22 10.20pm*)

My Darling Husband

Here I am again with a few lines rather later starting but have been down with the Tewsmiths for about an hour. Went down to Lydney this afternoon took Fred a piece of birthday cake. I came back on the seven bus. M went to sleep as soon as she had a drink. It's been rather rainy today.

I was very pleased to get your airgraph today darling written on April 1st. I was glad to know that you are all right. Before I go to sleep at night I think of you & wonder if you are on the move then or about to sleep too. I got two air letters while I was down at Lydney. The P. Office was shut here yesterday. I didn't have chance of course on Tuesday, make up for lost time now darling. It was a very nice airgraph seemed to be plenty written on there. You must be well supplied with beer darling will help to keep you cheerful. I took my supper down below & she gave the some tea, he's strained his arm clipping the hedge.

I expect Mam will get her airgraph tomorrow or Saturday. I may meet Mother & Sue in Gloucester tomorrow, I hope it doesn't rain. Don't suppose you will get M's photo until the end of May. I posted it on 22nd of this month, I think she looks like you on there. The Tatloes are going to move to some more rooms in a months time suppose everyone is pleased because of the banging door.

I shall see if I can get our present for Marguerite tomorrow, knife, fork & spoon. I have mentioned this before but you will probably get this letter first darling. I am sorry about the marks again I started writing this on the cloth left on for breakfast, must be blind.

I must put a shift on or I won't be up in the morning I was late last night. Sue left a book & of course read it. I didn't light a fire when I came back M went straight to bed after a drink & its none too warm now. I hope to get another letter soon with good news. I see you referred to the same thing on the airgraph. Afraid this one is a bit scrappy darling.

M sleeps a lot better now, she has only got two teeth still but two in the top are showing don't know when they would be through. She put her arms around Robert today, but didn't like it when he took her shoe off her & when I had him on my lap, she came by me & put her one arm around me, a bit jealous, as they generally are when you have another on your lap. I hope this finds you well darling as it leaves us. I'm off to bed right now so goodnight my Darling. Hope you get this soon. All my Love & Marguerite's. I am always thinking of you.

Always. Your Loving Wife & Daughter Pen & Marguerite

I.T.A.L.Y.D. Roll on.

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

30-4-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Decided to write an ordinary letter, being that I haven't any air mail. If I send in these envelopes. My officer doesn't have to censor them. He prefers us to use them. They are only liable for censorship at the base. If they arrive to you on the same envelopes.

Expect you have got your teeth by now Pen. Hope they settle down alright. I have received most of your letters darling. Ordinary mail you sent on the ninth April, I received on the 26th. Air mail I received you sent or started to write on 13th so I am pretty well informed of how you & baby are going on. The next lot should have something to say about baby's birthday. By the letters I receive from you darling. You devote as much time as possible to write to me. At one time there was only about one love letter sent between us. Never thought we should make up for lost time like we have done.

We see a lot of letters written from Jerrys wives & friends they have left behind. Not able to read them though. That's in places where they have moved out in a hurry. No doubt they would be glad to finish the war to get back home. I might be wrong, there's no way of knowing. We are doing alright for sweets here. Pascall toffees & liquorice allsorts. Not bad darling for out in North Africa.

That was very good of your mother to give you the chest of drawers. I know how handy that will be darling specially with Marguerites things. Its about 11.0am now, going to see if there is a cup of tea about. Will write again later, if I have time. Must get a rift on darling to catch up with you. Close now.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio darling.

Your ever loving husband Bert

P.S. Not been ill yet darling, glad to say.

May 1943

5-5-43

"In todays headlines it says British driving on Teboura, I wonder if you are anywhere near there darling."

15-5-43

"Think I will tell you my nearest escape darling. Now that this war is over in these parts. It was a Stuka on air raid as we were advancing. Luckily we had dug a trench by the side of the carrier. Four of us got into when he started dive bombing. Two others didn't get there in time, sheltered by the carrier. The bomb dropped about 5 yards from us. Egerton's bed was also by the carrier. That disappeared, the two who sheltered by the carrier was slightly injured. We in the trench got away with a bit of shaking. That was on Easter Sunday darling so we didn't exactly enjoy ourselves."

"Since then we have chased Jerry all over the place. Sometimes I was in a carrier, then on a motor bike. Finished up chasing him in one of his own cars. He left some stuff behind & the prisoners. Thousands of them, we rounded up three thousand in one day. Lots of other items I could comment on darling. But I mustn't forget our fireside chats. We are going to a place called Constantine for a months rest."

"Sorry Davidson won't be here. But hope he is going on alright. Going down to a small town tonight for the first time. Don't think there will be much there. Still have to carry our weapons with us, just in case of any trouble. I've got a tommy gun. So will have to drink your health with that on my shoulder."

23-5-43

"Just heard that Davidson is dead. That's big blow darling, sorry it happen. Only seen him about half an hour before. Just before the attack went in. Cannot make up my mind what to write. Better wait till the next air mail I get. Be a big shock to his father & tell Sue I am sorry. If she wants to know anything I will write to her."





Imperial War Museum

NA 893



Bou Ficha Farmers
October 2009

Mayfair
Newnham
Glos

5-5-43 (Mum to Dad 7.55)

My Darling Husband

Have just arrived back from Lydney, got back here at 7.30 didn't take M long to settle did it. Mam said she had an airgraph from you on Monday. They have got the double deckers on this route now. Went down on one this morning, what's the matter with me I mean this afternoon. I'm getting a bit absent minded I should think. Haven't lit the fire so should be going to bed a bit earlier tonight.

In todays headlines it says British driving on Teboura, I wonder if you are anywhere near there darling. Mam said that Sid had written to you a six page letter, guess your mail bag will be full. Its nice of them to write. Your Mam said she has told you she is having that piece of tooth out on Friday. She had it x rayed first.

Marguerite made herself at home to-day, started singing when the wireless was put on. I put her in the armchair for her tea, she stood on the arm and was going to get on the table, didn't let her do that. Must get her to be more lady like by the time you come home. If I tapped her hand I don't believe she would take much notice. Looks as though its going to rain. Doubt whether I shall finish this tonight darling its none too warm. I see Sue had a letter from Davidson's father by this afternoon post. Miss T first called & asked if I would like a cup of tea. Take my supper with me in a minute & then straight to bed. I've laid the fire ready for the morning to be up fairly early. Hello her I am back again darling.

10.10 be in bed by half past with a bit of luck. This letter ain't very newsy is it darling, may be better tomorrow if I get a letter. If Son doesn't come home this weekend I may o down again on Sunday to Lydney to see how Mam got on having her piece of tooth out. Mr T said he would put the gate up one wet night, haven't got much time with the garden. Do hope this still finds you well darling, I'm anxious for another letter to know.

How's the pancakes going these days, don't suppose you can get the eggs now. People who have fowls are doing well in this country but hey put them in glass water. There some lovely white fowls along Broadoak, we shall have to have some like that, good layers I expect. Hope we shall be seeing you soon darling, it will be a red letter day. I wonder when it will be. Till then darling I send you all my love & Marguerite's. We are both well, she can suck sweets now, she had a toffee this afternoon. Goodnight Darling. Look after yourself.

I.T.A.L.Y.D Always. Your Loving Wife & Daughter Pen & Marguerite

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

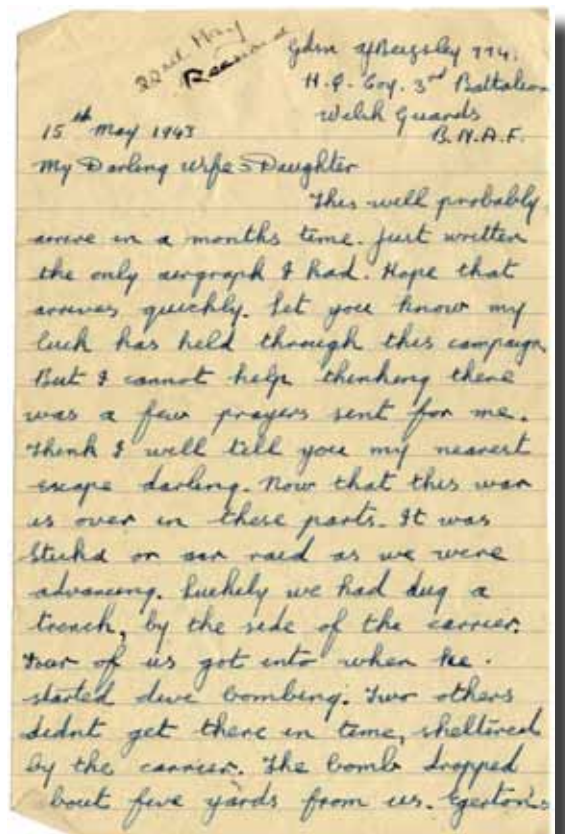
15-5-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

This will probably arrive in a months time. Just written the only airgraph I had. Hope that arrives quickly. Let you know my luck has held through this campaign but I cannot help thinking there was a few prayers sent for me.

Think I will tell you my nearest escape darling. Now that this war is over in these parts. It was a Stuka on air raid as we were advancing. Luckily we had dug a trench by the side of the carrier. Four of us got into when he started dive bombing. Two others didn't get there in time, sheltered by the carrier. The bomb dropped about 5 yards from us.

Egerton's bed was also by the carrier. That disappeared, the



15th May 1943
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(2)

Red was also by the carrier that disappeared, the two who sheltered by the carrier was slightly expressed injured. We in the trench got away with a bit of a shaking that was on Easter Sunday darling, so we didn't exactly enjoy ourselves since then we have chased Jerry all over the place. Sometimes I was in a carrier, then on a motor bike. Finished up chasing him, in one of his own cars. He left some stuff behind, = the prisoners. Thousands of them, we rounded up three thousand in one day. Lots of other items I could comment on darling. But I mustn't forget our fireside chats. We are going to a place called Constantine for a months rest.

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No idea what will happen after that darling. Might be sent home, can never tell. They have told us we are not going home. But they have to say that, doesn't do to broadcast where we

are going. If you here the sixth armoured division mentioned on the wireless. Our battalion is included in that. I heard it mentioned on the wireless one day. We can get the news from London on the wireless on the carrier.

Looking forward to some mail. The last I received from you was posted on Marguerite's birthday. By the way, I've got a kind of a portable photo frame which will come in handy pen. Got it out of one of Jerry's armoured cars. Made of leather, it will protect the

photos a bit. But if you don't fancy having

your photo in I won't use it. Its not the same as having bought it yourself. Well darling I should feel much happier than I do. Now the war in these parts are over. But to be with you & baby is what I want. No need to think one moment that I shall ever be otherwise. Shall have a few drinks to celebrate. Even that with caution.

Sorry Davidson won't be here. But hope he is going on alright. Going down to a small town tonight for the first time. Don't think there will be much there. Still have to carry our weapons with us, just in case of any trouble. I've got a tommy gun. So will have to drink your health with that on my shoulder. That is if I get down there. Might wait till we pull out to our rest area. Remember me to Mam, Sue, Son & Bill. Tell Sue I'm sorry about Davidson but hope to hear some good news of him later on.

Give my daughter a big kiss for me darling. Sorry dear I meant our daughter. Would give anything to see her looking up at my photo. Maybe it won't be long now Pen. Meanwhile look after yourself darling.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio darling. Your ever loving husband Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D

(3)

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(4)

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Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Addressed to Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

20-5-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Just received your first air mail since the cease fire. Bobbing in case there wasn't one for me. It was No.24 sent on 1st May. So they have got behind a bit. Expect there will be a long time between my letters. But once you start receiving them again, I will be able to keep it up. Think the airgraphs are doing better than they were.. Got one I will send after this, managed to get a couple extra. Had a game of cards this afternoon. Lost three hundred francs which wasn't good. Broke now till pay day, except for a pound note & a couple of 2/6 postal orders. Money isn't much use to us here.

Trying to get Marguerite to walk. Don't expect she will be long now darling. Not yet received the photos must be getting impatient. But I shall study them when they do arrive. I've done pretty well at writing letters lately. Mrs Guest, Auntie in Birmingham, also to Beat. Did I tell you Beat sent me a lucky horseshoe. Mam said she gets annoyed sent me a lucky horseshoe. Mam said she gets annoyed if I don't mention her in my letters. The weather has been very bad to-day. Thunder & Lightning, rained like the h... Bit better at present. No bathing to-day to cold.

Glad you got the wireless going darling. ?? a gadget now, that will register how much deuce is in the batteries. Still get plenty of cigs darling. My stock at present is about three hundred. Your friends at Cheltenham always seem to remember you Pen. The letters I receive from you isn't censored. Shall be glad when I hear you have got my letters. Its likely to get you & Mam thinking all sorts of things. Which is to be expected till you receive a letter.

Still no news of Davidson, maybe he has had time to write by now. The Tatlows moving, you won't miss them darling. Except for the banging of the doors. What a thrill just got four air mails. Three from you, one from Mam. Read them first darling. Marvellous darling, cheered me up a bit. That's No's 24/5/6/7 received to-day. Sorry darling you number twenty six twice. Doesn't really matter. The last one you knew Tunis & Bizerta had fallen. Three or four days fighting after that, as I said before. I thought Davidson & myself would be OK after those two towns had fallen. But suppose it wasn't to be that way. You will probably hear from Sue how Davidson is going on, before I shall.

We still make pancakes darling, have lemon juice over them now. Don't forget to let me know if you don't receive your extra money. The forms have gone through. Give them a bit longer, before I make enquiries. Its due to start on 19th April, so you will draw from then when it starts. Marguerites teeth are coming on slowly. She must be very interesting now darling. Expect you have yours by now darling.

Surprised at Mam going to have that bit of tooth out. Glad its over & she is OK. Don't think your letters aren't interesting to me darling. They certainly are, I like to read what you are doing. Even when you spend half an hour with Miss Tewsmith you miss me darling, I cannot describe how I miss you. It's a good job we don't know how long we shall be abroad. Or I might consider hitch hiking home. See about closing now darling. Write again to-morrow. I read the closing words in your letters & like them darling. Be seeing you.

All my love & kisses possible for me to give you to you & baby.

Your ever loving husband
Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D



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20th May 1943

2nd Airborne
 H.P. Coy. 3rd Battalion
 Welsh Guards
 B.N.A.F.

My Darling Wife & Daughter
 Just received your first air mail since the cease fire. Nothing in case there wasn't one for me. It was no. 24 sent on the 1st May. So they have got behind a bit. Expect there will be a long time between my letters. But once you start receiving them again, I will be able to keep it up. Think the airgraphs are doing better than they were. Got one I will send after this, managed to get a couple extra. Had a game of cards this afternoon. Lost three hundred francs which wasn't good. Broke now till pay day, except for a pound note & a couple of 2/6 postal orders. Money isn't much use to us out here. Trying to get Marguerite to walk. Don't expect she will be long now darling. Not yet received the photos must be getting impatient. But I shall study them when they do arrive. I've done pretty well at writing letters lately. Mrs. Gussie denton in Birmingham, also to Beat. Did I tell you Beat sent me a lucky horseshoe. Mam said she gets annoyed if I mention her in my letters. The

will think you should do it because it's a bad sort. But don't take any thing on that is likely to affect the baby. This might sound like an order Pen. It isn't anything like that. It's just that I don't want you to take on any unnecessary obligation. It's a bit windy here to-day. Keeps blowing the paper up. Our imprisoned tent, going all directions. Hope to get some air mail to-night. Expect it's too early for a reply saying you had received my letters. Hope you managed to get to the pictures that you mentioned. Should be possible to go every week, if mam will look after the baby. But don't get running into anyone that might be interesting. Excuse that sentence Pen. Don't look as if there is any mail about to-night. Hope for better luck to-morrow. There is some pictures here we can go to out here. Not made any effort to go yet. Not like going to the pictures in England. Roll on when we get back. But nothing will move me from my home or our home Pen. By the way we started doll parades again, & polishing a few brasses. That's about all I can think of interesting or practically. So will close for now. Just waiting for the day when I can get back. All my love to you baby.

D.T.A.L.Y.P. your ever loving husband
 x x x x x

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

MRS. A. BEZLEY

1/2 MAY FAIR

LYNNHAM-ON-SEVERN

GLoucestershire

ENGLAND



Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

23-5-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

A few lines that will follow on. Nothing very interesting to write as yet. Hope to think of something as I am writing. Been very warm to-day, hottest yet I think. Egerton had a bit of stomach trouble yesterday. He is up to-day, so expect he is better. We are due for 72 hrs rest on 28th. Shall have it unless we move again. Can never tell, we have to get the rest period when we can. Its about 6.0pm now, best part of the day. Only thing to look forward to again, is a bit of supper then bed. Think of you & baby, what we have done. Also what I hope we will do in the near future.

Beginning to get brown in the most exposed parts now. Must be getting hardened to it now. Never bothered about getting tanned while the fighting was on. Now we get more time I take an interest in it. The only thing this country is good for. Saturday evening, it isn't much like it darling. Sometimes we lose count of what day it is. Have to ask quite a number before we find out.

Kept this letter very neat up to now, must be getting use to the Jerry pen. When I got it out of an armoured car. I was very careful how I picked it up. Jerry had left a lot of booby traps, where he had time to do it. Remember me to Son & Sue probably they will be at Newnham to-night. Was thinking a bit back, if I still remembered the phone number. So I impressed it on my mind in case I should forget it. No. 266 is right I think darling.

Don't think its any good putting exactly where we are darling. Only get crossed out. Maybe you can guess if I put it this way. Its not actually at that place, but not far from it. Near the first town you think when you think of the country we are at present. Reads to me alright darling, but it may look to you like a very hard quiz. Let it go at that & hope for the best. But don't think the sun is affecting me darling. Sunday tomorrow, would like the pleasure of sitting at our table darling. For one of your Sunday dinners. Shall find it strange to sit at a table for meals. Generally stand up to eat or fix a couple of petrol tins for a table & chair.

Just heard that Davidson is dead. That's big blow darling, sorry it happen. Only seen him about half an hour before. Just before the attack went in. Cannot make up my mind what to write. Better wait till the next air mail I get. Be a big shock to his father & tell Sue I am sorry. If she wants to know anything I will write to her. Getting to dark to write now darling. Continue tomorrow.

Goodnight Pen & Marguerite.

Sunday 24th May 1943

Good morning sweetheart, just back from our church service. Needless to say it was held in the open air. Going for a swim in the old Med, this afternoon. As per usual I wish you were here. Be warm again this afternoon. To hot to sleep in the afternoons. It's about 11.0am now, just time to take baby for a walk, then a game of darts with Son at the "George." Will give you a chance to get the dinner Pen. Roll on when that time comes. Well darling that's about all I can think of for the present. Keep that chin up, hope I shall be home sooner than we expect. All my love to you both. Remember me to Mam, Sue, Bill & Son. Also Mr & Miss Tewsmith. Be seeing you. Cheerio darling

Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D





Nabeul
October 2009



Hammamet Medina
October 2009

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

26-5-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Received the photo of baby this morning. She has altered, looks more intelligent. I am very pleased with it. Room for improvement. The more I look at it the better she looks. At first look I couldn't make out what had happened with her shoes. Studied it from every angle, could tell her anywhere now. Also noted your arm in case she should slip. Believe I remember the coat darling I am looking at it now, she's certainly got a charming smile. And I am proud of her darling. Still the same Robert, got sort of an amazed look like he had when I was at home. Don't tell Beat I said so, might offend her. When I said room for improvement darling I meant in photography. Marguerite looks as though she is coming on lovely.

Now for a few lines on Davidson. Expect that you have heard by now he is dead. I mentioned it in an ordinary letter, but this might get there first. Asked Mr Egerton to see the Padre to get full details. Which he is going to do. Then probably Sue would like to know or his father. So far as I know I am the only who knows much about him. Expect his officer will write a few lines to his father. What I have heard up till now is that he volunteered to fetch some wounded in. His officer was in hospital at the time. So ??? doing some other job. If its correct, he should get a medal. But Ill let you know soon as possible the full facts so that you can pass it on to Sue. If she thinks his father would like to hear. She can write to him, if he doesn't already know. Well darling I expect it will be a shock to all of you. I know it was to me. But will let it rest at that.

I also received two letters besides the photos. One you had written on Marguerites birthday. She seems to have done very well with presents. Specially if you have the date put on Mr Tewsmiths present. By the way, think you mentioned about wanting you to clean a room. I don't agree with that darling. You have enough to do to look after Marguerite. Any spare time, should you have any, I prefer you spend it on Marguerite. As regards cooking, maybe you could work that in with your own. That's up to you Pen & the cleaning as far as that goes. But I prefer you take no chances with extra work. Probably you will think you should do it because they aren't a bad sort. But don't take anything on that is likely to affect the baby.. This might sound like an order Pen. It isn't anything like that, its just that I don't want you to take on unnecessary obligation.

Its a bit windy here today, keeps blowing the paper up. Our improvised tent going in all directions. Hope to get some air mail tonight. Expect its to early for a reply saying you had received my letters. Hope you managed to get to the pictures that you mentioned. Should be possible to go every week, if Mam will look after baby. But don't get running into anyone that might be interesting. Excuse that sentence Pen.

Doesn't look as if there is any mail about to-night. Hope for better luck to-morrow. There is some pictures here we can go to out here. Not made any effort to go yet. Not like going to the pictures in England. Roll on when we get back. Bet nothing will move me from my home or our home Pen. By the way we started drill parades again & polishing a few brasses. That's about all I can think of interesting or partially. So will close for now. Just waiting for the day when I can get back.

All my love to you & baby

Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

P.S. Received two letters & one air mail dated 18/5/43. Its good to receive them darling. But makes me brownd off not being home. Will comment on them in next letter.

now, as that he volunteered. I wish soon
wounded in. His officer was in hospital at
the time. So I am doing some other job
of its kind. He should get a medal. But I'll
let you know soon as possible the full facts
so that you can pass it on to Sue. If she thinks
her father would like to hear. She can write to
him, if he doesn't already know well darling
& expect it will be a shock to all of you
& know it was to me. But will let it rest
at that. I also received two letters besides
the photos. One you had written on Margaret's
birthday. Wish it was possible for me to
have been there to complete the party.
Hope for better luck on her next birthday.
She seems to have done very well with
parents. Specially if you have the date put on
Mr. Swinburn's present. By the way, thank you
mentioned about them wanting you to
clean a room. I don't agree with that
darling. You have enough to do to look
after Margaret. Any spare time, should
you have any, I prefer you spend it on
Margaret. As regards cooking, maybe you
could work that in with your own.
That's up to you son, = the cleaning as far
as that goes. But I prefer you take no
chances with extra work. Probably you

received two letters - one on May 14/5/43
from you to-day. Our mail stopped on 14/5/43
to receive them darling. But making Welsh Guards
me browned off not being home will
comment on them on next letter. Margaret's
My Darling wife & Daughter. M.A. Would like to hear.
Received the photo of baby
this morning. She has altered, looks more
intelligent. I am very pleased with it. Room
for improvement. The more I look at it
the better she looks. At first look I
couldn't make out what had happened with
her shoes. Studied it from every angle, could
tell her anywhere now. Also noted your nose
in case she should slip. Believe I remember
the coat darling. I am looking at it now.
She certainly got a charming smile, and I
am proud of her darling. Still she some-
what got sort of an aged look like
had when I was at home. Don't tell her I said
so, might offend her when I mean for improve-
ment darling. I meant on photography. Margaret
looks as if she is coming on lovely. Now
for a few lines on Davidson. Expect you have
heard by now that he is dead I mentioned
it in an ordinary letter, but this might get
there first. Asked Mr. Egerton to see the
Paine to get full details. Which he is
going to do. Then probably Sue would like
to know or her father. So far as I know
I am the only who knows much about her.
Expect her & officer will write a few lines
to her father. What I have heard up to

suppose it wasn't to be that way.
You will probably hear from Sue
how Davidson is going on, before I
shall. We still make pancake & jam
have lemon juice over them now
Don't forget to let me know if you
don't receive your extra money. The
forms have gone through. Give them
a bit longer, before I make enquiries.
It's due to start on the 19 April so
you will draw from them when it starts.
Margaret's teeth are coming on slowly.
She must be very interesting now darling.
Expect you have yours by now darling.
Surprised at Mom going to have that bit
of tooth out. Glad it's over, = she is OK.
Don't think your letters aren't interesting
to me darling. They certainly are, I like
to read what you are doing. Even when
you spend half an hour with Mrs. Swinburn
you miss me darling, I cannot describe
how I miss you. It's a good job we don't
know how long we shall be abroad. Or
I might consider hitch hiking home.
See about closing now darling. Write again
to-morrow. I read the closing words in your
letters, = like them darling. Be seeing you
all love = kisses possible for me to
L.A.L.V. give to you = baby
your ever loving husband
XXX - Don't XXXXX

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL



MRS. A. BEIZSLEY

MAYFAIR



NEWNHAM-ON-SEVERN

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ENGLAND

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

30-5-43 Sunday

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Sunday again, just back from church service. Expect you are seeing to the Sunday dinner. Probably Son or Sue has taken Marguerite for a walk if they are there. With all the Sunday papers about here, it looks like Sunday. Catching up with news a bit. Writing this darling with the same thoughts. Hope I shall soon be seeing you wonder how long it will be. Doesn't sound very cheerful darling, but I am full of optimism on getting home shortly. Had to leave off to go to a nice hot shower bath. It was good, freshen you up a lot. Just had another look at baby's photo. It looks better every time I see it. Shall look forward to a more recent one of you.

Sorry I cannot send one, there isn't any photographers as I know about this area. The towns are hopeless, nothing there of any interest. If there was you cannot fancy it, not like English towns. Swimming is about the only pleasure we get. Except that I think we are going to the pictures tomorrow. But it suits me darling so long as I am away. Glad when I receive the mail saying that you have heard from me. This month will finish tomorrow. So we have been out nearly four months. Only consolation darling, is that we got that much less to do.

Received about eighty cigarettes marked with the V sign the other day. Smoking more now than ever I have done. Have to get it down when we get to England. Difference in the price there. Noted the extra allotment has arrived OK darling. Good job or it might have taken weeks again to fix it up. Nearly tea-time darling so will have to get cracking. Continue later.

About 7.0pm. now darling, this is the third time to have a go at writing this letter. Its the best pleasure as I'm concerned that we get. Think I will finish it tonight, might go on four days leave tomorrow. Hope there is a stack of mail waiting for me when we get back. Well darling, to think the three of us could be having a nice quiet drink after a walk somewhere. At a country pub, with the drinks out on the lawn. That I hope isn't far away. Don't want to get you browned off darling. But that's the way my thoughts run. Speech House is as good a place as any, but if we get our own transport. We will certainly call there. Might even invite the old man over, should be so pleased with myself. It appears your Mam is going OK with him. Glad to hear it, wouldn't like to think he will go back to the old ways.

Tell Mr Tewsmith being that he is a military man or has been. That I still detest the army & will be glad when it will be a memory. Miss Tewsmith said something about pushing Jerry back, the day I left. Think we pushed him back a bit. Have the Tatlows left yet, don't think they got on very well, or there would be a lot more harmony between them. They haven't got the interest or pleasures we have with Marguerite. Not so much myself as yet, you have been the lucky one up to now in that respect any way darling. Both of us share the unfortunate position of being apart for a bit. But I am pleased with the way you go to Lydney often as possible. By Mams letter she wants you to go as often as possible. If you can get to the pictures, it will make your visits more cheerful.

Getting dark probably have a job to finish it darling. Someone or other keeps coming for a chat, holding it up for a bit. Sorry if I keep mentioning the letters I hope to receive telling me you & Mam have heard. But as you say darling, mother is older, also her health. I know she worries inwardly. Must be a big strain on you darling, not making it any easier if you have heard about Davidson. Lights getting to bad, hope it will look OK when I check up in the morning. Soon be in bed now Pen, little earlier than you are use to in England. Close now darling.

All my love to you & baby. Keep your chin up darling. Be seeing you both maybe sooner than we expect. Cheerio Pen. Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D



June 1943

6-6-43

"One bit of news that might interest you. Llewellyn Lloyd the writer of 'How green was my valley' as arrived out here. Come with a few other officers & men. But that doesn't rule out the possibility of coming home shortly Pen. They always keep a battalion at full strength.

Don't think I've described the country much darling. We are stationed in an olive grove, where they produce the oil from. But tastier still is that there is a few peach trees down the road. Not ripe yet, but I'm not so keen on them, until they've been in tins."

14-6-43

"Just found out that I can say where Davidson was killed. It was at Hammam Lif if it isn't on any maps you may look at, or Sue might like to. Its somewhere on the coast, in the Gulf of Tunis."

17-6-43

"Was glad Sue heard from Davidson's father. I wanted you to find out from there first. Actually I knew he was wounded the same day. And the M.O. gave him little chance. Told me at the R.A.P. when I inquired. But they seemed that they wasn't sure if it was the one I was inquiring about. Next day we had to push on & keep going until it was finished. We crossed the coast where he was killed to the coast the other side to Hammamet. Just outside of that town the cease fire came."

After that I made more inquiries. Even then it wasn't definite, so I didn't want to take a chance on saying anything. So I just wrote & said he was wounded. It was at Hamman Lift as I mentioned in my previous letter. Had a chat with him about a quarter of an hour before. It was a very steep hill where it happened. Had to go up before we could enter the town, Jerries were on the top.

Massicault Cemetery

October 2009

Many of those buried at Massicault War Cemetery died in the preparation for the final drive to Tunis in April 1943 and in that advance at the beginning of May.

The cemetery is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and contains 1,576 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 130 of them unidentified. No. of Identified Casualties: 1448



Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

3-6-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Write a few lines while I am on four days leave with Mr Egerton. Will enquire if we are allowed to say where we are. Won't be able to post it till we get back. Then as I said before, I hope there is a stack of mail. The only useful thing about this leave, is that we get plenty of swimming & rest. Have to have our own food, cannot get it in the town. No decent drink, only wine get tired of the smell of that.

Met some good class French people they have a villa out here. Showed the photos I carry with me. They were delighted, specially with the baby. I pointed out which was ours. If you remember I still carry snaps of the wedding. Cannot describe their action when they saw those. Probably you know darling when they see anything good. Be able to tell you when I get back home. Or try to darling, because they jabber away. Can only tell by their action quits. Think you know more French than I do. I haven't got any interest to learn it. Can manage well without that till I get back home.

Got a servant here with us who was near Davidson in that battle. He is the only one left in that company. Two killed & two wounded. It was another chap with a name like his, that went out for the wounded. We came through the place again yesterday. Looks a bit different to what it was then. Couldn't tell there had been any fighting there. Continue later Pen

5/6/43

Back at camp darling, received two air mails & an ordinary letter from you dated 21st & 24 the air mails, the letter on 14th. It was in Tunis we spent those four days. You made a good start Pen going out & forgetting your teeth. Mother told me you looked better with your teeth, also getting fat again. But couldn't say what she meant by saying you were looking more staid. When anyone is without teeth though for some time its bound to make a difference. I've noticed before that if anyone has good teeth, it shows up. Specially on photographs. Glad to read Marguerites teeth are coming on OK.

Well darling I hope Uncle Joe isn't far wrong about the war. We are certainly in a better position, another knock like he has had then it might be all over.

You might congratulate Bill for me on his engagement. The green letter you received ??? there in ??? good time. Maybe the ships get there quicker now. Be very useful to know the boat won't take so long once we are on it.

You did the right thing darling when you went to Lydney to tell Mam parts of my letter. The letter I sent to Lydney couldn't be far behind though. Hope your colds or hay fever is better darling. Won't be wanting any writing paper etc for a bit. Still got some you sent, the other parcel might turn up as well. The letters arrive very well darling, haven't noticed any missing yet. Well darling there is very little interesting news. Still don't know what is likely to happen. But there is plenty of optimism about the war soon finishing. Expect some mail anytime now, hope I am lucky.

By the letter I received from Mam, she was getting a bit worried. But roll on darling when we can get a little peace of mind. When the only thing to worry about will be what time shall we get up. Have to make it on time for work of course. See about closing now darling. Being Sunday tomorrow, will write again. Have to be on an ordinary letter though. But that's not so bad now according to the time it took the green envelope to arrive.

Give Marguerite a kiss for me.

Be seeing you both. All my love to you & baby. Always your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

6-6-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

What couldn't we do with a nice afternoon like this in England. I can think of one or two things to make it good. But shall have to save them till I can get there.

One bit of news that might interest you. Llewellyn Lloyd the writer of 'How green was my valley' as arrived out here. Come with a few other officers & men. But that doesn't rule out the possibility of coming home shortly Pen. They always keep a battalion at full strength.

Don't think I've described the country much darling. We are stationed in an olive grove, where they produce the oil from. But tastier still is that there is a few peach trees down the road. Not ripe yet, but I'm not so keen on them, until they've been in tins.

Going out tomorrow on the same sort of thing we did at Berkhamstead. Learning men to drive, take our tea with us & have a swim. I go merely for the run around. Use to grumble being away at Berkhamstead for a month. Would be thankful to be back there. Should be at least seeing you at the end of the month.

Took to reading now Pen, it helps the time along. Mr Egerton mentioned about pay a day or two back. Said he would give me a lump sum when we get back. Will come in useful for us to make a good start darling. Seven & six a week should make a tidy sum. I don't write this on airgraph or letter because he might be the one that censors it. Not that it would make much difference.

I didn't see the film "Gone with the Wind" darling but it should make good reading. The one I am reading is called "Scarlet Petticoat" its all about fur trading. Not got far enough to say what it's like, only read a couple of pages. Will continue later darling. See about a drop of char. Believe me darling, the British Army couldn't do without their tea.

8th June 1943

Sorry I didn't add anything yesterday darling. Just received an air mail from Sue, one from Mam & the 'People' & John Bull. Disappointed nothing from you darling, full of hope of one to-morrow. Will comment on Sue's letter in my next air mail, be quicker.

I went to the pictures last night. Don't think I shall bother again. The show was quite good it was Judy Garland in "For me & my Girl." The seats were school desks which were a bit hard. Cannot expect anything else though. The theatre had been hit & the buildings all round were in ruins.

Sue says how well Marguerite is looking, specially in her new pink outfit. Mams always saying how well she is coming on. OH I hear she got into the pantry & upset the milk. That's the idea darling, shows she is doing well. You being good tempered Pen, won't mind. Think I will close darling. Write an air mail soon as I get. Roll on darling. Be seeing you.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio Pen. Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

9th June 1943

Sorry this letter hasn't been posted darling. Have been waiting for an issue of green envelopes. Not had them yet, nor any air mail or airgraph. But will get it away soon as I can.

One bit of extra I forgotten to comment on Pen. Mam said she told you, she hoped I would go to Lydney first for a bit of a lecture. Can easily guess what that would be about. She is expecting to much, it would be impossible to do that. Should even like you to be waiting for me to step off the boat. If it was possible to let you know when we arrive. I have even thought it out darling. Would try to get you & baby to meet me in London. Then stay till we get our leave. If there was any quicker way., I can assure you darling I shall take advantage of it. Even do a nip soon as we set foot in England.

Think I will drop a few lines to Sue now. Although I suspect she knows now. If I don't get a green envelope to-day will add a few lines to-morrow.

Same day Pen. Just see the green envelopes going round, also two air mails each. Close now darling & write a few lines to Sue. I can put up to three letters in a green envelope. Then I will start the air mail to you. Meanwhile I hope to get some mail from you darling. Don't be surprised Pen if we turn up sooner than you expect.

All my love to you & baby. Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

PS> Decided to send this straight to you darling, it will be a bit quicker. Sue will probably know everything now darling. Believe I wrote & told you Pen. Would like to write to Sue but I don't want to risk making things worse than they are. I might write something which isn't necessary. Cheerio Pen & Marguerite.

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards. BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

13-6-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Another Sunday towards getting home. Just come back from an ENSA concert which wasn't so bad, makes you a little browned off though. Change to hear a little swing music. Three English girls, one who had sung with the London Symphony Orchestra. What's the latest songs now darling, sure to be a few since we left. If the wireless keeps going, you might hear them.

Don't know if you will receive the green envelope first. But I mentioned in there that I had received an air mail from Sue. Still trying to make up my mind whether to write. According to the air mail, you didn't know about Davidson. Think I will wait till I hear again from you again. Probably tell by your letter what Sue would like to know.

Nothing very interesting to write home about darling. Except for one small incident, I cannot comment on. Didn't effect us much so we are back on routine. Expecting to hear that Marguerite can walk in your next letter. She seems to be getting on well. Must be grand to watch the different stages as she grows darling. It's to be expected that you hardly notice the difference darling. But I can see a change in the photo. She seems more alert & eager to see things as you have described. Continue tomorrow, Goodnight Pen & Marguerite.

Monday 14th June

Just back from a swim & sun bathe darling. Warmer today than it was before, at least it seemed like it. Using olive oil now gets to hot to be on the beach. As I said before there's plenty of that here. Only thing it ought to be Brighton or somewhere down that way. Maybe we shall have the pleasure soon Pen. Hope to get some mail to-night darling give me something to write about. There's nothing very interesting happening out here. When we get back the excitement of going to the picture or a walk down the street will nearly get us down. Although we get up very early on week days, five thirty, bed down as soon as its dark. The day seems to go fairly quick, considering there's nothing interesting about.

Just found out that I can say where Davidson was killed. It was at Hammam Lif if it isn't on any maps you may look at, or Sue might like to. Its somewhere on the coast, in the Gulf of Tunis.

Couple of letters arrived not many. Probably have to wait till to-morrow Tuesday that's the day most mail seem to arrive.

Glad you enjoyed that hour in the park darling. A game of golf with Marguerite toddling after us would have made it more enjoyable. Smiled once or twice about Mam wanting me to call at Lydney first. Wrote and told her I couldn't promise to do that. Our anniversary won't be long now darling, bobbing on being home for it.

There's a Sargeant sleeping by me. He comes from Newport way, in the Police Force. Married the inspectors daughter about twelve month ago. No children, but he is very anxious to get home soon. Wonder I haven't mentioned that before, because we have been together most of the time. We were in the trench when that bomb came a bit close. Don't know if Bruce would know him, his name is Jenkins. Very common Welsh name, so don't expect he is likely to know them. Also been with a chap about two years. Didn't know till a couple of days ago he must have been working in the same goods yard as me at Bourton-on-Water. Only he was working for one of the coal merchants.

Often wonder Pen how my letters read to you. In case I send some with words missing or my grammar might be very bad. It ought to be alright now, I've had plenty of practice. It will only be on very rare occasions I shall write once I get home. As things are at present of course its a pleasure. Managed to get four stamps to-day, they will come in handy. Costs pretty well for you to send an air mail darling, sixpence a time.

Sorry to read you had to wait four hours in the queue at Gloucester. To long Pen, doubt if I could had stood that. Think I've got pretty well on this letter darling even if it isn't interesting. The main thing I would like to write & tell you. When I shall make the phone call. That's not possible at present. But the chances seem good, about fifty fifty I should say. So will close for now darling full of hope. Keep those chins up.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio darling. Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

17-6-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Have been waiting for an air mail or air graph. But they don't seem to turn up. So must write an ordinary, or my mail to you will drop. Received three air mails from you this week. They were interesting & a few words at the end of the last one I've read numerous times.

Four of us had a snap taken by the Company Commander one day this week. (*ref letter 12th July, snaps taken at Monastir*). Just as we were about leave from swimming. Probably be a long time before they are developed. But will send it on as soon as we get them.

Was glad Sue heard from Davidson's father. I wanted you to find out from there first. Actually I knew he was wounded the same day. And the M.O. gave him little chance. Told me at the R.A.P. when I inquired. But they seemed that they wasn't sure if it was the one I was inquiring about. Next day we had to push on & keep going until it was finished. We crossed the coast where he was killed to the coast the other side to Hammamet. Just outside of that town the cease fire came.

After that I made more inquiries. Even then it wasn't definite, so I didn't want to take a chance on saying anything. So I just wrote & said he was wounded. It was at Hammam Lift as I mentioned in my previous letter. Had a chat with him about a quarter of an hour before. It was a very steep hill where it happened. Had to go up before we could enter the town, Jerries were on the top. That's about all I can say darling. Not yet heard from the Padre who promised to find out what happened when he was wounded. If you will pass it on to Sue Pen, don't think I will write.

Sorry about the misunderstanding over Marguerites birthday present. The old man never entered my thoughts. But it was very good of him. Thank him from me the next time you see him darling. Heard from Mam that you went out into the back kitchen, asked her if you should fetch her a stout. She was very amused at it. Nice work darling you are making yourself at home more than I expected. Adds a bit of colour to your visits if you have a drink. Hope there was someone to look after baby, to let you go for a drink with Aunt Beat & family. Also hope you spend that week at Lydney if you fancy it. Spend a few hours in the park with Marguerite.

If I can get you a leek darling I will send it on. Let me know what Mrs Hewson has to say darling, if you decide to hear what she has to say. Marguerite still pulling the wallpaper about. She must be doing well if she can switch the electric oven on. Be walking in a very short time, if she has got as far as standing by the chairs.

Well darling I've got a dozen eggs, going to have a couple with some fried bread & tomatoes for supper. Wish we were at our corner of the table to eat it. Would enjoy it a lot better, specially with the 'Daily Mail' to read. If Marguerite would let me. I get Mams papers alright now, they make very interesting reading if they are a bit late. I do plenty these days Pen. Think of you both a bit darling was in one of your letters. Now if you had said think of anything else, could understand it. But that's all I do darling think of you both. From the time I wake till I go to sleep at night. Very often picture you & baby together at Mayfair. Busy bathing Marguerite, or cooking, up & down those stairs. Suppose you could call it dreaming darling. Still after the storm darling, should come a little calm & sooner the better.

Excuse my writing darling, very poor. I brought a fountain pen with me, but don't know where it is. This Jerry pen is better. Mr Egerton prefers to use it as well, says its a good one. Will make you a present of it darling if I can get back alright. Look close at it, you can see if there is any ink in it. Doesn't show muck, it was a long time before I noticed it. Sort of a press gadget to fill it. Well I must go & cook my supper, or it will be to dark. Soon as I get an air mail I will send it darling.

Now for the eggs, hope to cook them without breaking the yokes. Close now darling, a bit browned off when I think of you. Wonder if you will guess what I mean. Better leave it at that, or the censor might fluff. Any case darling, shall always wait for you. Might not be as long as we expect. Kiss to Marguerite from me & God Bless you both darling. That's the words I read a number of times in your letters & I like it. Cheerio

All my love to you both. Keep your chins up. Think we have got over the worst now. Cheerio Pen & Marguerite. Always your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

P.S. Just received air mail dated 9/6/43. Will write an airgraph.

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H. Q. Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

20-6-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Got an air mail at last, also an airgraph. Will send that to Lydney. The ordinary letter will probably take some time. Another Sunday afternoon darling, probably drop off soon as I've written this. Got the mosquito net up to keep the flies off. Roll on Tuesday that's the day the mail generally arrives. No news of interest lately. Still a fifty fifty chance of being home soon. Will upset Mrs Hewson's forecast of being away for two years. Shall be interested to know if you had your fortune told again. Although you wasn't very keen by your letters. Its interesting darling, so don't ever worry over it.

Remember once we were in Gloster. Sat on a seat by the cathedral, baby was with us. You said something about a soldier drawing every detail of the cathedral from memory. Think I will do the same to help kill time. Unless we are on our way home, before I can start.. Miracles do sometimes happen darling.

Any signs of Bill getting married yet, tell him not to wait till he gets called up. Get on with the job in case it turns out that way. Did you see the Birmingham people after. I never dreamt o Whitsun, didn't realize it was Whit Monday till someone mentioned it. Hope you was able to get a kick out of listening to the Derby on the wireless. Whether the race has been run or not, or the date. I haven't the slightest idea. About those weeks after we shall get the details.

We have a new thing out here now. It's called the latest scoop. Quite fun to hear it. Try to explain it as well as I can Pen. The best scoops are anything to do with going home. Someone will say, have you heard the latest scoop. Or for instance was that there was two loads of battle dress come in. Whether its right or not remains to be seen. Another was that someone should apply to the C.O. for leave to go home to settle some trouble. C.O. said according to the scoop, That's there no need to grant it because we shall be home in about a month. Whether there is anything in that remains to be seen also. Usually we forget about it, don't bother to inquire. If we did probably find out it isn't true. Something to write about darling, hope it doesn't sound boring.

A N.A.F.F.I. van just arrived, first since we have been out here. Probably things will improve as time goes on. Not that I want to stay here to see them. We've always drawn our N. A. F. F. I. issue up through the battalion.

Still getting on alright with your teeth. Sue said you were fat in the face with them. Cannot see that teeth will make much difference. Mother said they looked well & she is pretty severe critic. The next news about Marguerites teeth should be that she has more. Make her look different when they are all through. Wish I was home to see all her changes as she gets older. Also walking a few steps by herself now. In case this gets home before the ordinary letter.

Four of us had a snap take on the beach. Might take some time to get it developed. But will send it on when I get it.. Just got an extra airgraph, so will be alright for the next couple of days.. If I can of something to write about. Walking to Foxes Bridge from Newnham is a long way, no wonder you get puffed tother end. Pity there isn't a train about 10.0am. I know it was too early to catch when I was at home. But we will have another go later on with a bit of luck. Don't hear much about your mother these days, suppose she is going on OK. Wrote & told mother at Lydney that you thought she was looking better. Guess that will cheer her up a bit. Maybe he health will improve though as she gets older. Getting very pushed for something to write about now darling.

To get hope soon as possible is all I can think of. Glad its a fifty fifty chance of getting home soon. Hope this doesn't get you browned off, keeping on about it. Don't let it put you off your breakfast darling. If its at that time you receive it. I'll soon be home to assist with the washing up etc or play with Marguerite.

Have still got a £1 note that mother sent. Keep that for the phone call. Would cheerfully pay all of it to get the call through. See about closing now darling. Will write an air graph to-morrow. If any mail arrives, will have something to write about. All the important things are at that end darling. Close now darling.

All my love to you both. Keep your chins up. Think we have got over the worst now. Cheerio Pen & Marguerite. Always your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

P.S. Just received air mail dated 9/6/43. Will write an airgraph.

will say, have you heard the latest scoop. One for instance was that there was two loads of battle dress come in. Whether it's right or not remains to be seen. Another was that someone should apply to the C.O. for leave to go home to settle some trouble. C.O. said, according to the scoop, that there's no need to grant it, because we shall be home in about a month. Whether there is anything in that remains to be seen also. Usually we forget about it, don't bother to inquire. If we did probably find out it was true. Something to write about darling, hope it doesn't sound boring. A. N.A.F. I've just approved, first since we have been out here. Probably things will improve as time goes on. Not that I want to stay here to see them. We've always dreamt our N.A.F. were up through the battalions. Still getting on alright with your teeth. Dad said you were fat in the face with them. Can't see that teeth will make much difference. Mother said they looked well, - she is a pretty severe critic. The next news about Marguerite's teeth, should be that she has more. Make her look different when they are all through. Wish I was home to see all her changes as she gets older. Also walking a few steps by herself now. In case they get home before the ordinary letter. Four of us had a snap taken on the beach. Might take some time to get it developed. But will send it on when I get it. Just got an airtel airtel, so will be alright for the next couple of days. If I can think of something to write about. Walking to Foxes Bridge from Newnham is a long

Sunday 20th June 1943

H.Q. Coy 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
D.N.A.F

My Darling Wife & Daughter

got an air mail at last, also an airtel. Will send that to Sydney. The ordinary letter will probably take some time. Another Sunday afternoon feeling probably dozing off soon as I've written this. Got the mosquito net up to keep the flies off. Roll on Tuesday that's the day the mail generally arrives. No news of interest today. Still a fifty-fifty chance of being home soon. Will expect that. However, forecasts of being away for two years, shall be interested to know if you had your fortune told again. Although you want very keen by your letters. It's interesting darling, so don't ever worry over it. Remember once we were on glister. Sat on a seat by the cathedral balcony with us. You said something about a soldier drowning away details of the cathedral from memory. Think I will do the same to help hell time. Unless we are on our way home, before I can start. Monkeys do sometimes happen darling. Any sign of Bill getting married yet, tell him not to wait till he gets called up. Get on with the job in case it comes out that way. Did you see the Birmingham people after I never dreamt of Whistler. Didn't realize it was what Monday till someone mentioned it. Hope you was able to get a tick out of listening to the Derby on the wireless. Whether the race has been run or not, on the date, I haven't the slightest idea. About three weeks after we shall get the details. We have never thing out here now. It's called the latest scoop. Quite fun to hear it. Try to explain it as well as I can. The best scoops are anything to do with going home. Someone

say, no wonder you get puffed to the end. Pity there isn't a train about 10.0 am & know it was too early to catch when I was at home. But we will have another go later on with a bit of luck. Don't hear much about your mother these days, suppose she is going on O.K. Write a told mother at Sydney that you thought she was looking better. Guess that will cheer her up a bit. Maybe her health will improve though as she gets older. Getting very puffed for something to write about, now darling. To get home soon as possible is all I can think of. Glad it's a fifty-fifty chance of getting home soon. Hope this doesn't get you browned off. Preparing on about it. Don't let it put you and your breakfast darling. If it's at that time you receive it. Ill soon be home to assist with the washing up etc. or play with Marguerite. Have still got a bit to note that mother sent. Keep that for the phone call. Would cheerfully play all of it to get the call through. See about closing now darling. Will write an airtel to-morrow. If any mail arrives, will have something to write about. All the important things are at that end darling. Close now darling. All my love to you both. Keep your chins up. Think we have got over the worst now. Cheers Ben & Marguerite
21st June 1943
just received your mail
dated 9/6/43
I.A.L.V.D.
write an airtel
X X X X X X X
Always your ever loving
Husband X X X X
Ben X X X X X

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

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MRS A. BEIZLEY

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Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
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BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn
Re addressed to 1, Oxford Street, Lydney

25-6-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

My last letter written on the 20th did not have a good start. It was the 24th before it was sent from here. This will probably be there as soon. Still my routine to report darling. Received an air mail from you yesterday, expecting more in to-nights with some news of some sort, mostly about you & Marguerite I hope. Sure to be walking by now, & probably saying all sorts of things.

Read the "People" & John Bull that Mam sent me the same night. Doing a lot of reading these days. Washing day to-day, I hate that. I won't mind if you send yours to the laundry Pen. Remember Mam saying how much washing she use to do. In fact I can remember it, but never realized how hard it was. However she did it I don't know. When she says she had a hard life, I know it now. With a bit of luck things will be altered when we get back. Few people will get a shaking up hope I have the pleasure to assist. I still got those ideas of working my way to the places where you can have a little say in these matters. If I get down to home life as I wish, should have little time to spare to get amongst it. Don't suppose you are interested in much of that at present though darling. So will change the subject darling. Wish I could change the situation as easy.

Get home to you both, sleep in a house, a decent bed with sheets, able to put my legs under the table. Million things I would think of, but would only bore you to put them all down.

Is the wireless still going & able to get the batteries. Expect you have to put it out of Marguerites way now, able to get across there quicker now. No sign of the snaps we had taken, very difficult to get them developed. Have you decided to have yours & Marguerites taken darling. Would like one with your teeth in. That sentence doesn't read very nice darling. Writing words twice darling, but I'm not beginning to stutter.

How is Sue these days, hope she wasn't disappointed I didn't write. But the facts have to be faced. I don't or at least didn't want to dwell on it any more than I can help. Same applies to Sue, bit hard to overcome it though. Excuse my writing darling, lay on the ground with my knees up. Beginning to show signs of getting dark darling. Peaceful & quiet, maybe I shouldn't have said peaceful. Believe the word means you are satisfied with your surroundings & happy about it. That's not the case, but there's a little consolation that things could be worse.

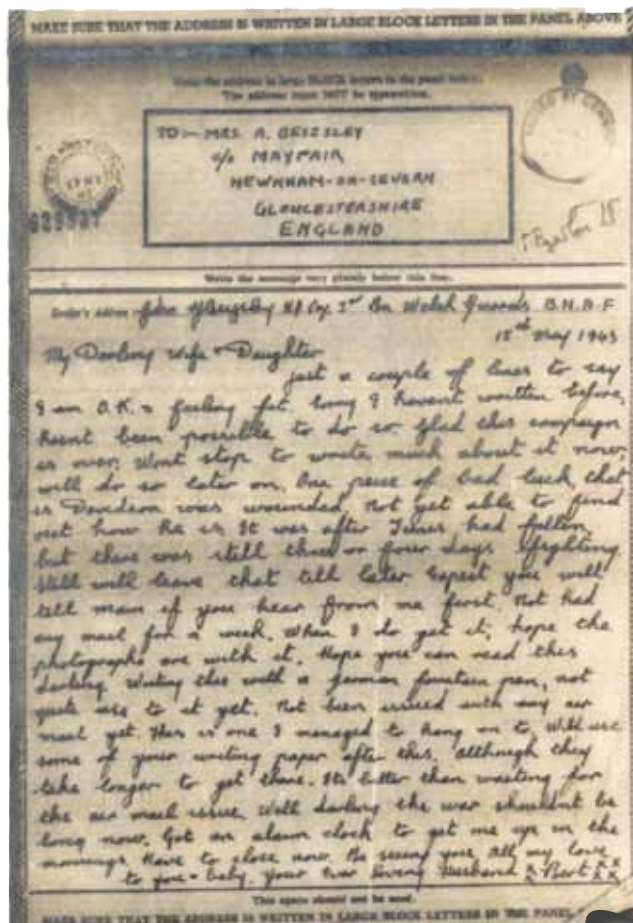
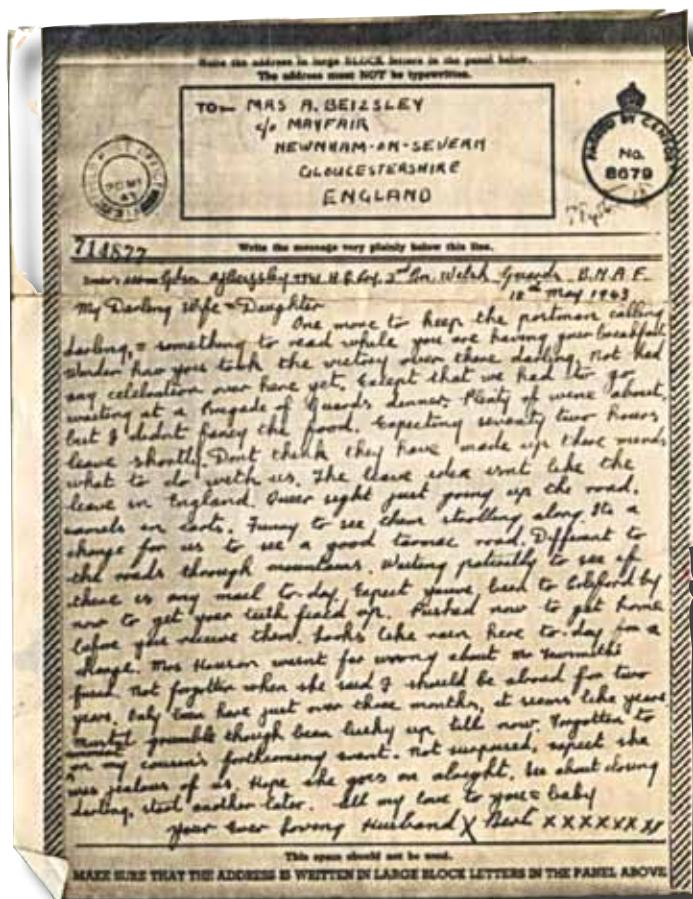
26th June

Had to leave off last night darling. Another day with plenty of swimming, went this morning, going again this afternoon. Not much like Saturday again but the weeks seem to go fairly quick. No mail arrived yet for this week. Forgetting I had one Monday or Tuesday. Afraid I haven't been writing very often lately. Hardly average one a week. If the ordinary mail arrives alright, won't be so bad. Must be like when I was at Hampstead or any of those places. Couldn't write much when the chance of getting home was about. Lets hope it turns out that way darling. Expect you will wonder if there is a chance of it coming off. Still about fifty Pen. Going for a swim darling, continue when its a bit cooler.

Just received two welcome air mails darling. Glad you were able to enjoy yourself a bit while you were at Foxes Bridge. Go to the pictures anyway. We haven't been able to go lately, not that I miss them. Must be getting use to this sort of bachelors life. That's what it amounts to, it will do so long as we are out of here. But let me get home to answer some of Marguerites questions. Also a drop of that tea you are making.

In the same place with the spirit stove. Mustn't think of it to much or will get browned off. Full of hope it won't be long now How I look forward to the time when we can have an orange like we use to. Expect there's a smile on your face darling. Keep it there Pen, shall be seeing you soon. Will start another letter to-night.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio Pen & Marguerite. Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D



July 1943

4-7-43

"Will give you a clue to where we are in my next letter. For instance if I ask how Aunt Susan is (sic Sousse??). It won't mean Sue, you can write & tell me if you fluff. Your letters won't be censored darling. Seems easy to me for you to guess. Expect its different to you when you receive it."

7-7-43

You know that noted writer we have with us. He is writing a book on two of the battles we were in. Battle of Fondouk & battle of Hammam Lif where Davidson was killed. Maybe his relations would like to know. Probably be a long time before its published though. He wasn't there at the time. But he has visited the places. Goes round asking different officers there stories."

12-7-43

"Forgot to tell you before. But there's no such thing as officers servants out here now. We are called batman drivers. Have to do all driving they require now. At present we have a 15cwt truck. Won't be much difference, they can work that alright. Only be driving when we move."

23-7-43

"Have to get long trousers on before 7.30. It's an order out here, on account of mosquitoes spreading malaria."

31-7-43

"We have been very luck lately. When we first came here, we had an air raid nearly every night. But the last week or more, no sign of Jerry."





Sousse 1943



Sousse 2009

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

1-7-43

My Darling Pen & Daughter

Not very keen on writing this ordinary mail. Takes to long to get there. No air mails, but I have a couple of airgraph forms without stamps, which isn't much help. Received your air mail no.40 last night. Very interesting Pen, hope Mrs Hewson will tell you what we are waiting for. As regards the French darling. Firstly I am to much in love with you & know you are waiting for me. Quite prepared to wait darling. Secondly there's no French people about, not seen any since we left Tunis. All we see is a few stray Arabs. Did I write & tell you once that we were going to Constantine. If so I am sorry darling, we never went there. Not allowed to say where we are even now. Still on the coast, that might get through alright. Go bathing in the Med two & three times a day.

Sunday 4/7/43

Hullo darling, sorry I haven't wrote the last couple of days. Been waiting for an airgraph. They've arrived but will finish this first. Its about 1.45pm now. Went bathing this morning, write & sleep this afternoon, then bathing again this evening. Too hot in the afternoon for it. About lunch time for you darling, wish I was there. Be getting ready for a nice nap with the wireless on. Besides one or two other things I should have in mind. That would depend on Marguerite, if she was asleep. Nice to talk in riddle darling, doesn't need much imagination to sort it out. Besides it won't do to write to bluntly, when they have to be censored.

Will give you a clue to where we are in my next letter. For instance if I ask how Aunt Susan is (*sic Sousse??*). It won't mean Sue, you can write & tell me if you fluff. Your letters won't be censored darling. Seems easy to me for you to guess. Expect its different to you when you receive it. If its to jumbled up darling, don't be afraid to tell me. Close for now, hope it won't take to long for this to arrive. Big kiss for Marguerite from me darling. Equally big one for you darling.

All my love to you both. Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

7-7-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Just back from an evening swim, try & write this air mail. One or two letters on the way but this will probably get there first. What a day we had yesterday. The wind was like when you open an oven door. Very hot, it nearly scorched us.. Couldn't keep cool, water was hot. Impossible to get anything cool. Appears the wind was blowing from inland, which made it hot. The old Med was very calm, but when we were swimming, it got so hot we had to keep ducking. The wind is blowing from the sea today, so its cooler.

Thinking the other day darling I should write a few lines to your Mother. Will do so a bit later on. That's two words I have had to put in already, very bad habit to keep missing words out.

You know that noted writer we have with us. He is writing a book on two of the battles we were in. Battle of Fondouk & battle of Hammam Lif where Davidson was killed. Maybe his relations would like to know. Probably be a long time before its published though. He wasn't there at the time. But he has visited the places. Goes round asking different officers there stories.

Well darling I am still full of hope of being home soon. Don't expect I shall do any hen pecking darling. Being out here taught me an extra lessons. The beauty of a wife & home is something to look after. If I miss out another word or make a mistake. I'll write you three ordinary letters, to get a bit of practice in, all before I go to bed tonight. Its seven o'clock now, so will have to get a jazz on if I make a mistake.

Donkey making a noise like that one use to at Foxes Bridge. Laughed one night when there was an Ensa show on. Some girl was singing when a donkey started making a row. Its a common occurrence about here, there is a lot of donkeys about. Its there main type of transport.

I think Fred will be able to guess where we are. By what I wrote in a letter to Lydney. Not here for long, so will have to think up something else when we move.

We will certainly have a little dog Pen, with your permission of course. Train it well is the main thing. Don't there is a better pet than a well trained dog. Think its nice to see a little dog with a little girl. They make a fine picture provided the dog is good looking.

Three ordinary letters before I go to bed. They will probably get lost on the way darling. Bit of mail just arrived to much to expect one to-night. You can be sure of getting more than one kiss with a thrill in it when I get here darling which I hope won't be long darling. To get home for our third anniversary will suit me. Naturally anytime before would be welcome yes I would certainly get extra low tension battery darling. Get two if they are about, because the one we have must be getting worn out. I know what makes me miss those words out darling. Its the flies, I hurry the sentence to knock them off. We only wear shorts and gym vests most of the time. So they have plenty of places to land on. Case explained, excused writing three ordinary letters before bed. Hope you don't mind darling.

What's for breakfast in the morning Pen. Eggs & bacon & fried bread, right we will get up early in the morning. But if we didn't want to get up we won't. That's the days I want to come along. Forgetting, that will only apply to Sunday mornings. Have to do a bit of work. You say you get sentimental darling. You've nothing on me for getting that way when I think of the times when we shall be together again. Good job I think there isn't long to wait now. Few words for Marguerite, would love to see her. She must be looking well. Hope you are lucky with photos darling. Look after yourselves. Be seeing you.

All my love to you both. Cheerio Darling. Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

9-7-43

My Darling Pen & Daughter

Saturday evening in North Africa again. All we have to look forward to is a bit of supper. Just had an open air bath in cold water. Makes you feel good darling. Cannot describe what I looked like, except that I am tanned a little. No fear of anyone seeing us about these parts. Lucky people in England Pen. Son & Sue is probably home with you & Marguerite. But the only snag darling is my being away.

Outlook is very good darling. According to the news we have made a start in Italy. We have an Italian prisoner cooking our pancakes for us now. I use to hate them when at F.B. (*sic Foxes Bridge*). But this one I feel sorry for hasn't heard from his people for two years. He's always willing to work, washes our mess tins & mugs if we let him. He cooks for the officers, we servants have been doing it. But they sent him along now. We take him swimming with us. He looks more cheerful than when he first arrived.

Received an air letter from Birmingham this week. Also hundred cigarettes from a tobacco company. The Lydney C.Fund ordered them to be sent. Aunt Beat was full of praise for you & Marguerite. Said she had you all in stitches from laughing when she was dancing. Bless her I wish I could see her. Good job the prospects of doing so soon, is good. Think I told you I had written to Mary in the wrens. She very often writes expect she likes to get some mail while she is away. I told her she would regret joining, said shes got over that now. Also received Sid's letter posted on sixth May. He put second Battalion on the address, so it went there first. He did very well in telling Mam a few things to put her off worrying when the trouble was about. Said he liked Newnham & enjoyed Marguerites party. The table being well laid by you darling.

Melons figure in our diet a lot these days. Very good when its hot. Weather has been quite normal last couple of days. Forgetting we had a concert arranged by our company last night. Was good singing with a piano & a piano accordion. Sounded good out in the moonlight.

Mail, sack full arrived some excitement now. To much to expect any tonight darling. Words aren't enough praise for what you send now. But I think Ill nip over & see papers & parcels no letters darling. "Whispering Grass," no heard that one yet.

Was going to write to your Mother, but its a bit late now. See what tomorrow brings. Expecting an air mail form any time now. So will close till then darling. With my thoughts for ever with you & baby.

All my love to you both. Still full of optimism that it won't be long. Cheerio Pen & Marguerite. Your ever loving husband Bert.

I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

12-7-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Sorry I didn't write yesterday. We went out for a picnic.

Tuesday. Apologies again darling, called away again. About 1.30pm now & I hope to get an afternoons writing. The picnic went well on Sunday. Only your presence I needed Pen. Feeling was wonderful after a good swim, then a good feed. Consisting of as much tinned fruit & milk we could eat. If only you were there it would have made the evening. A little walk along the sand, but you can guess what we would have done. I have an air mail to write. Prefer to write this first because it won't be censored by our officers.

Wonder if you can follow my idea of trying to let you know where we are. Any case will give you a clue later on. Don't expect to be here long, so will have to think up another when we move. Well darling the campaign in Sicily seems to be going well. I sincerely hope its the beginning of the end. Getting very browned off with this life. Get back to England to you & Marguerite, sooner the better.

One of the servants in my tent must be browned off. His wife is expecting any time now. He had to go away this morning for ten days. Not likely to get any mail while he is away. So he won't know till he gets back. Thankful I haven't got that on my mind anyway. The next time for us darling, I hope I shall be home all the time. Had better say if there is a next time. But we can talk that over later on. The officers here consider we have a fifty fifty chance of being on our way home soon. But I think it will depend on how the Sicily goes on. Egerton just come round to borrow my pen. He's had it till I finish this.

Forgot to tell you before. But there's no such thing as officers servants out here now. We are called batman drivers. Have to do all driving they require now. At present we have a 15cwt truck. Won't be much difference, they can work that alright. Only be driving when we move.

Tuesday today, the day the mail generally arrives. Changed my mind darling, this won't leave before the morning. So will carry on with something or other. About 7.0pm now. Just back from a good swim. Feeling fit & ready for a bit of excitement after it. Afraid I've had that though unless by some miracle I was able to board a plane & get home in about eight hours. Wouldn't stop for supper, that's in about half an hours time.

I can understand your descriptions of Marguerites actions easy darling. I try to picture her doing it. The walk from F.B (*sic Foxes Bridge*) must do her a lot of good darling. Also it won't do you any harm, but I shouldn't do it to often. To much in one go, it's the hills. They tend to make you overdo exercise.

I am watching the entrance for the mail, should be here any time now. Egerton is out by his tent, he's generally across there before anyone else. The company commander is due back tonight from four days in Tunis. Hope he managed to get those snaps done. Will post them in this envelope if they arrive. They were taken at a place called Monastir. But I doubt if there will be any scenery on them. Also taken in our side caps, there are much cooler than berets. Well darling this might not be very interesting, but its another half hour spent with you. So will close for now. Add anything that might turn up before the morning.

Cheerio darling & Marguerite

Your ever loving husband Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D

PS. In love with you more than ever.

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

19-7-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Just a few lines in a hurry. We unexpectedly went to Tunis for four days. Didn't know we were going till the night before. Came back last night & was pleased to receive two air mails & the John Bull. Not a bad time there, but I'm always wishing I was home.. Tunis is getting a lot better now, more beer about. The best place is St Germaine though. Just outside Tunis, it's a sort of holiday resort.

Hope you enjoy your stay at Lydney darling. Certainly a bit more interesting than Newnham. I haven't forgotten any of our memories there. Specially the Thursday I left for the army. It seemed to me as if I was stepping from heaven into hell. Remember me saying these words that morning. "To think I have to go away from you for a bit" or something like that darling. You looked lovely sitting there, you can probably remember. Hope it won't be long before we shall have the pleasure again. I look at it this way now. 75% of my army career is over, only 25% to do. Hope I'm right anyway. The war situation looks good, so I mightn't be far wrong.

Just heard Rome as been bombed, hope they will pack it up if they get it too heavy. Marguerites weight is OK darling. Mam said she has a paddy, doesn't know who she follows. We will each take a bit of the blame darling. Good idea of sending the Daily Mail now & then darling. You've probably got letter by now asking you to send me something to read. No sign of the snaps yet, might be able to get them printed one day. Could do with a camera out here myself. Be able to take a few interesting things. But as we tell the French people Africa no bon, England tres bon. Might not be the right way to spell it darling. As you probably know it means Africa no good England very good. Getting to learn a little French. But they get on my nerves, when they jabber away. They try to get us to drink as much vino as possible. Its the wine they drink, but I don't like it. Nothing to beat a glass of beer.

Would love to be able to visit the Swan darling. But you know I wouldn't enjoy it if you wasn't about. Or if you wasn't agreeable that I should go. I've just had a piece of chocolate. It was melted, so I probably look like Marguerite when she has a piece. Most of the chocolate melts in the daytime, hardens up again at night. Wonder if you are back at Newnham or decided to stop at Lydney. Expect you prefer the solitude of your own home now & the. Should have said our home darling. Such as it is darling till we get cracking on my return. Which I look forward to as much as anything.

Still ??? the names of houses out here now ???. And bear them in mind till we have to name ours. Shall have to jot them down on a piece of paper or I shall forget these French names. There not all French. In Tunis there is an elderly woman who lived in Kensington for a number of years. She is a school teacher & calls her house "The kennels". She teaches English to her daughter & the children round about. We went there to listen to the English news. Don't suppose we shall Tunis again. All the better we might be on our way home.

Optimism is still great darling but so far no sign of us starting. Still as I said before we actually knew we were going. What a surprise it would be. Although I doubt if they could keep it so quiet as that. Bound to be some little sign to give us a clue. You can bet I am always looking for me darling. Come to a close now darling. Might get some more mail to-night or to-morrow. So will post this on.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio Pen & Marguerite. Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

22-7-43

My Darling Wife & Daughter

A few lines for when I get the green envelope. Received air letters No.47 & 48 yesterday. Mostly written while you were still at Lydney. Two very nice & interesting letters. Question of oranges we use to have. I always get a kick out of your replies. Sort of takes me back to the actual times. Shall be looking forward to the "Illustrated" etc you have sent on. The letter you received from the Welsh Guards Officers wife. I see no harm in mentioning about a house. At least it will be something to write about. Told Egerton about it, he knows him. At the first battalion at present time.

Marguerite seems to be enjoying herself. Up to any sort of mischief. Pity I'm not home to share watching darling. No, we weren't in the Sicily job Pen. Won't be unless anything goes wrong out there. We got another Italian prisoner now. Captured in Sicily, sent over here. He had a medal from Musso, Ciano K. Of Italy & Goebbels when they visited there. He certainly puts on some useful dishes for us. So we got two of them now, saves us a lot of work. They are very small, when we take them swimming. They are out of there depth, when its only up to our arm pits. What a pleasure it would be to learn you to swim darling. Would be better than when we were dancing. More patience when I get home darling. Before we came out here, time was so precious. If the smallest amount of time was wasted it made me irritable, as you noticed darling when you said I was hen pecking. But I had time to notice that you learned easily. Quick to pick it up, if given a fair chance. Looking forward to the time when we can have another go darling.

We now play a game called housy housy, which most soldiers play when they are sent in lonely places. I won 130 francs last night. Won the first & last games. Think I mentioned the type of game it is, when I was in England. You each get a card with a certain amount of numbers on. Doesn't matter how many play, more there is the bigger the prize. Someone shouts the numbers out. The first to have his numbers shouted out wins. Believe its the only gambling game allowed by the army.

Doing very well this morning. Nearly written four pages before lunch. Have a kip this afternoon, too hot to go bathing. Get troubled with hot winds, that blow up the dust. There none too comfortable, but they don't last long. We only get half a bottle of beer a week now. I happen to be lucky this week, had a full one. Ticklish job to open them. The heat makes them fizz up so you loose half if you are not careful. Will continue later darling.

Tuesday 23rd July 1942 (sic 1943)

Hullo darling, got the green envelope so will add a few lines then post it on. Feeling a bit browned off the last day or two. Must be the weather, too lazy to do anything. We had a visitor yesterday. A captains wife came out here to see where her husband was buried. He was killed at Fondouk. She came out as a worker for the Y.M.C.A. That's the only way she could get out here. After seeing North Africa, I should think she will be glad to get back. Will try to write a few words on the chances of being back soon. One or two are still taking bets we shall be home within a certain time. Egerton is eager to be on the way home. Try to find out the latest scoop. Asks me if I've heard anything. So far there is nothing definite to go on. We expect to move from here any time now. Should get some idea then what's likely to happen. Just back from a swim darling. About 7.0pm now, if there is any mail to-night. Will add a few before I post in the morning.

Have to get long trousers on before 7.30. It's an order out here, on account of mosquitoes spreading malaria. Cannot think of anything of interest at the moment. Give Marguerite a big kiss for me darling. I am always hoping to be home with you both soon. Cannot come quick enough. Guess the old scenes will be changing sometime. Keep your chin up darling. Remember me to Son, Bill, Sue & you Mam. Be seeing you. Cheerio my darling wife & daughter.

Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741

H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion

Welsh Guards

BNAF

27-7-43

c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Few lines after 11.0am cup of tea again. Wrote an air mail the day before yesterday. Should have been censored & sent on yesterday. See its not gone yet. That's Egerton getting idle. I'll shake him up when he comes in though. This will probably go the same time, but doesn't have to be censored here. Can hand it in myself.

At present darling my stock is very good. Plenty of cigs, chocolate, toffees & boiled sweets not forgetting two bottles of beer. Would like to get some chocolate & sweets to you & Marguerite. But I don't see that its possible. That's how our luxuries go out here. Sometimes there's plenty others you have a job to get anything worth having. We always go one up though being with officers. E has got a 7lb tin of Wild Rose Toffees now. That's only one of the items they generally get extra. Needless to say I help him on anything like that.

Should do a bit of washing this morning. Skip it until tomorrow. I make it a lot easier now, also it doesn't take so long. Wash our khaki drill in petrol, comes out alright to. Use the petrol for fires after, so its really not much waste. The sun out here soon takes any traces of petrol out of it. Seems to be a bit of a lull in the war situation. Something big is likely to happen any time now. What with Italy in the position she is. Like to hear something or other each day. But the finale cannot come quick enough.

My time spent in the Mediterranean must be doing me some good. We had a day on the beach yesterday. Had some sports, a few races etc. I entered a race to the water take your shorts off, swim out round two markers & back again. I won it anyway darling, as you can guess or I probably wouldn't have mentioned it. This is a good one darling, it gave me a good smile. There is only one thing that would make me take my shorts off quicker. Better finish at that darling. Don't want you to think my letters are getting too bad. Can't help it darling, but roll on the time.

Think some of these green envelopes go through without being censored. Maybe this one will. Remember I told you that there was an officer whose wife was expecting before we come out. The one who use take an interest in our baby, because they already had a daughter. She had a boy back in March anyway. Well he went into hospital with Malaria. When he was discharged & on his way back. He caught his hand in the door of a railway carriage. Now going back to England to have some skin grafted on his hand. He lost a little finger, but has to go back for the operation. So I consider he's touched lucky, it won't affect him much. Lunch time darling continue later.

31st July

Saturday morning darling, something different to what they use to be in Cinderford. Wonder what you & Marguerite are doing at this moment. Not so browned off as myself I hope. Luckily it passes off after a swim or when we are doing something. Got one of the bottles of beer open, so I should be able to write a charming letter.

Remember those very lazy persons who use to crowd together under a tree at F.B. Use to annoy me to see them. Well they won't be so lazy while we are looking after them. Pity its not at F.B. instead of out here. All for anyone having an easy time, but when they aren't willing when there's work about, that's different.

Still no sign of the snaps darling. I missed a good chance of having them taken at Tunis. But owing to the queue there & not exactly enjoying myself I didn't bother. I regret it now, wish I had went there. E told me his mother wrote & said she wished he & myself was they to help with the harvest. Alright if you were there darling.

We have been very luck lately. When we first came here, we had an air raid nearly every night. But the last week or more, no sign of Jerry. Well darling I have another green envelope & an air mail. So will see about closing this one. Try to reach the bottom. Then have a good kip this afternoon. Swimming to-night. Do a bit of letter writing if I receive any mail. Should write to your mother, but cannot get down to it. You & Lydney is the only ones I write to lately.

E just going for a bathe. Strutting up here like an Oxford blue. Makes me smile sometimes. There is a saying no man is an hero to his valet. Quite right to, he got a good name in the campaign for leading the battalion. But only myself knew how he was bobbing. Of course I was bobbing too. But he never let himself down, just kept going. No one could see anything except that he was eager to have a go. But if anyone suggested to call the whole thing off he would have been the first to agree. You can tell how poplar he is, the carrier platoon wanted him, if there was any action about. Seeing him go by give me an idea to fill another page. Although its touching on the fireside chats we hope to have.

Will close now anyway darling. Hoping this finds you & baby in the best of health. And carrying on OK. Till my lucky day arrives. When we shall be together again.

All my love to you both. God bless you & Marguerite & help you to keep your chin up.

Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

to say its better now. Think I caught a bit of cold on our way back from Tunis. But late on the road, gets cold at night out here. The car was a bit drafty with only shorts & a shirt on. So I came later darling xxxxx

Wednesday 28th July. Hello darling this is about 11.0 am just the old usual morning change. But you got the kettle on for a yours, if you want to busy. News this morning still going well. Still routine here. Plenty of swimming as per usual job to think of something to write about. Thought at one time to write & ask you to send some Andrews two letters. But it will probably take a long time to get here. So we will ship it darling. The maps you saw at Sydney of me at Yagopol. Couldnt have been so good as the ones you got. Because I remember I sent you the best. You must have a better memory than me, I cannot remember any of them. Something different now to what it was then. Grumbled about being away then, was well off & didnt know it. Well off compared this anyway darling. Have to strike a more cheerful tone in this letter will be coming wonder where that B--t boat is. Its going to take us back. On its way I hope. Not looking for any more trouble than I can help. But the quicker we are on

Tuesday 27th July 1943

John Offley 77961
H.R. Coy 5th Battalion
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

My Darling wife & Daughter

Received letter no. 48 last night. Very welcome darling, regardless of the big blot. Hope the photos come out O.K. Shall be looking forward to one of them. Had forgotten the competition for the prevention of accidents. Keep it darling, may prove interesting when I get back home. Which wont be so long now darling. War situation looks better every day. The Germans we got here, jumped for joy when they heard that Mussa had cleared out. You should see the way they serve our dinners up. Equal to any hotels in London, they make stuff out of flour Ive never heard of before. We have a piano here for a couple of days. Got a good play so we get some good piano rhythm. This month will soon be out darling. Getting close to our anniversary. The chances of getting home for it are narrowing down. Still full of hope though darling. Expect to be away before the winter. What a thrill to be on the way no good getting impatient though darling. Had a bit of toothache the last couple of days, glad

the way the better. If the worst comes to the worst, a short cut through France will be better than this. Then again I suppose we are better off while we are away from action. If we can only stick it out. Tried to get a different line, but its not much more cheerful. Write a bit later on darling xxxxxxxxxxxx

3.30 pm just back from a little shopping expedition. But you cannot picture our shopping centre. Dont expect you would eat anything from there. Darling I bought a couple of bunches of grapes, just soaked them in water. Put a special sterilizing tablet in. Thought after about ten minutes 7.0 am back from a swim darling, received letter 49. Cheered me up a lot. Not quite clear where Marguerite was, when she went with you. Take it she was with mother at Four Bridges now you have told me about the book you suppose to burn. You had better send it for me darling. Be a good girl & send it very difficult to get sufficient to read out here. Not joking about the cochon Pen, it can be done. Makes me jealous of anyone else seeing sofa darling. Whatever does from now on, wont get such a good time as we did. Letter no. 49 arrived in right days. You are commenting on some thing, I dont expect to get back for a couple of days. Got a green envelope that I will start next. Not enough room on here to reply to your air mail 44. Will close till then. Memorable darling. Give a hurr to Marguerite for me. All my love to you both, always thinking of you. Be seeing you darling. X X X - Best X X X - 28

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL



MRS A. BEIZLEY

MAYFAIR

NEWHAM-ON-SEVERN

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ENGLAND

August 1943

5-8-43

"Richard Llewellyn Lloyd has just come in with Egerton. His age estimated at 50-60 is a little too much. Will ask his servant just now. Egerton is expecting his third pip now, will then be second in command of the company."

6-8-43

"Another officer going back to England. Captain McVitie the race horse trainer. He was in charge of the carriers, but Egerton did most of the work in the campaign. Now E is in charge of the carriers, hope he will let the officer under him do most of it. McVitie is going back owing to ill health. Don't think E will be as artful as he was."

11-8-43

"Yes we only get ground sheets & blankets darling, & mosquito net. Only suppose to have two blankets but I've got three. Manage to make it a bit softer with overcoat & battle dress blouse we still have."

18-8-43

"Had that alarm clock mended, its going fine. Rather dear though 50 francs or 5/-. Mr Egerton had his watch mended, cost 150 francs or 15/-. Our Fred would make a bit of money clock mending at that rate."

19-8-43

"Paid a visit to Constantine this week. Went to swimming baths, which was marvellous. The surrounding scenery was wonderful. Cliffs of rocks towering in the air, with house's built on the top. There is a suspension bridge as big as Clifton, & one or two smaller ones. To look down it gives you a bit of a sensation. The town is built on a hill, with these deep ravines running through. Lifts my estimation of North Africa a bit. To-day we formed a guard of honour for the Frenchman in charge of Algeria, forget his name."

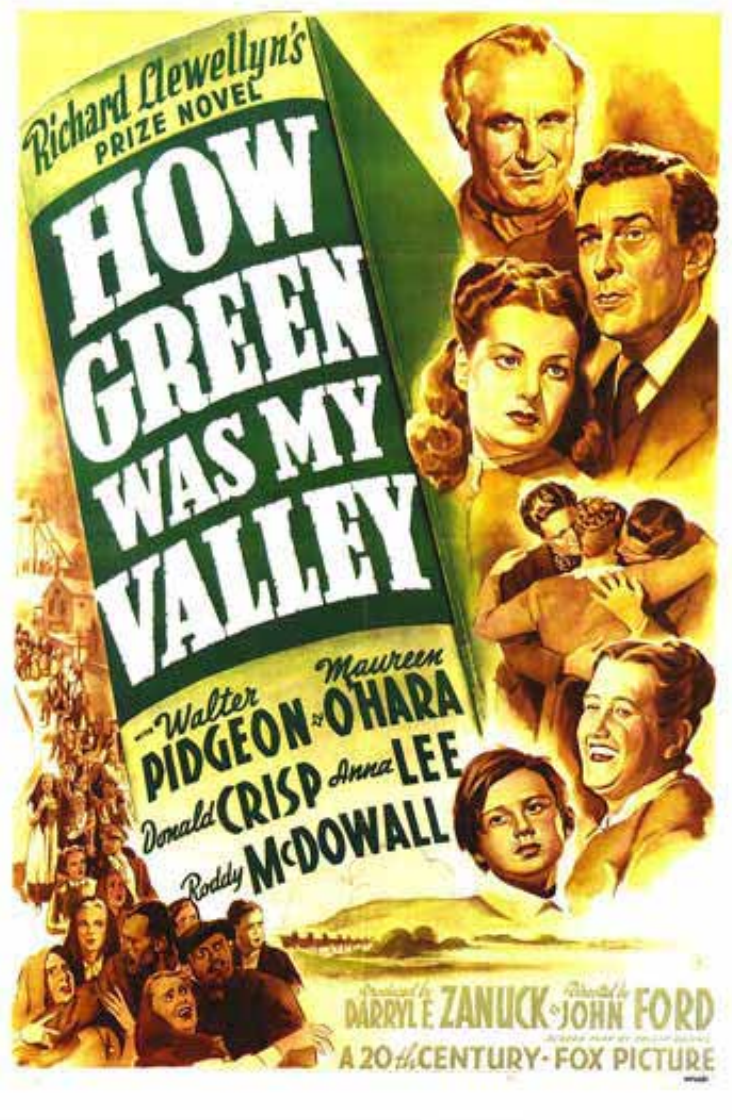
23-8-43

"Forgot to mention the slight alteration in the address. We are now called the Support Coy."

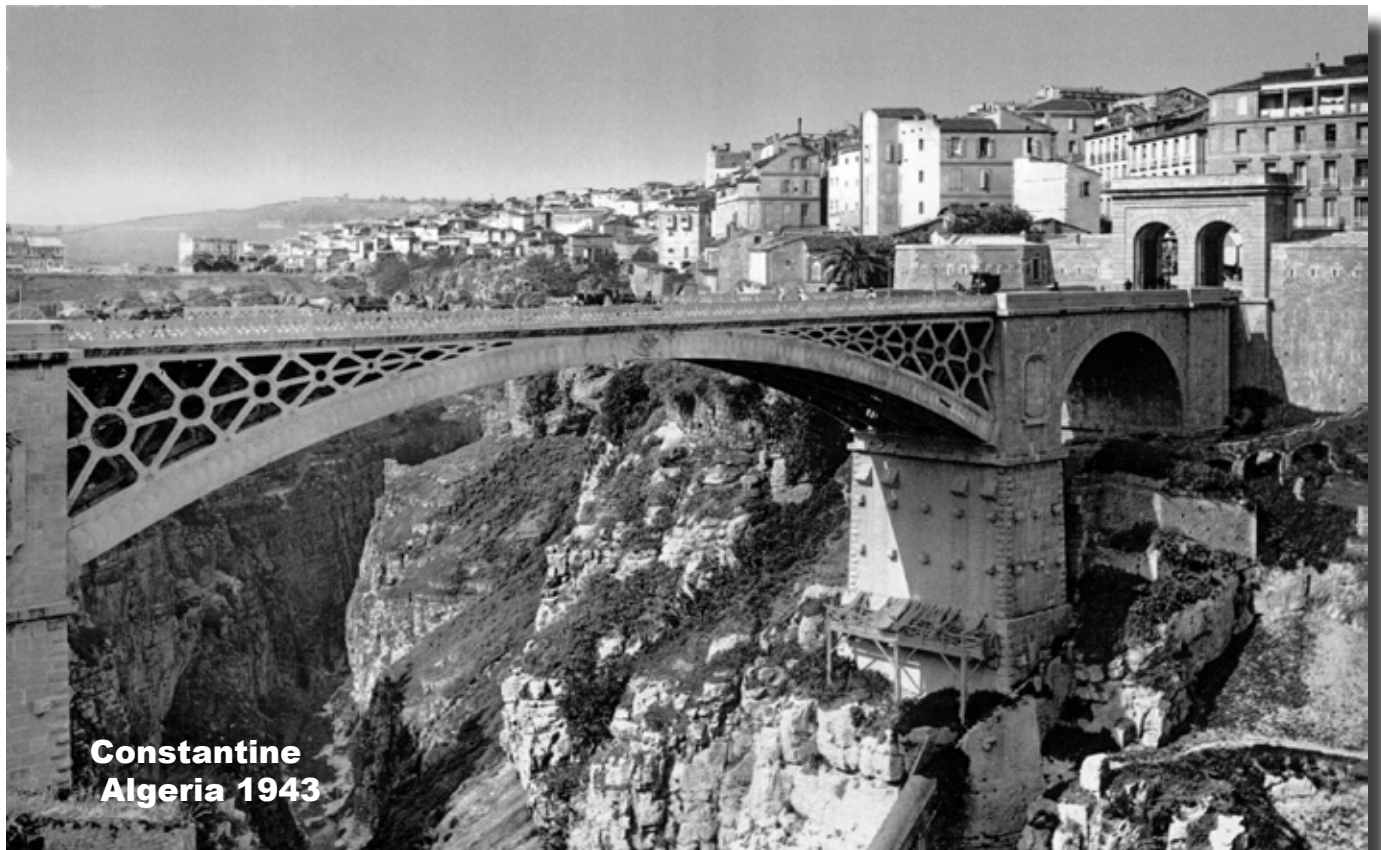
"Churchill talks in Canada are coming to a close. Then we shall probably get the low down. The army isn't engaged at present. Something will have to get cracking. Russia is doing marvellous. In the summer period to. According to that they should do better in the winter. What they've done before is always been done in the winter."

25-8-43

"Probably some of the chaps in the French Foreign Legion never do much writing. Did I tell you we were camped near them just after the campaign. I was disappointed in them, the books & films overdone it."



Author
Richard Llewelyn Lloyd



Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
H.Q.Coy. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

Thursday 5th August 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Just received two air mails 51&52. The letter only being posted on 25th July. Taking only seven days to get here. No.51 must have got hung up somewhere. Well darling I am glad to read in your letters that you are getting on OK. A bit lonely perhaps, but not so much as myself. Your descriptions of Marguerite shows she must be doing well. Though I should like to write & say we are coming home definitely. Afraid that's still not possible, but we are still full of hope.

The war situation is progressing favourably so we mustn't grumble. The old Berkley chair days mightn't be so far off. Richard Llewellyn Lloyd has just come in with Egerton. His age estimated at 50-60 is a little to much. Will ask his servant just now. Egerton is expecting his third pip now, will then be second in command of the company. Said he didn't bother whether he was made a Captain or not. All he wanted was this b---y war to finish. Doesn't seem twelve months since we went to Mayfair. Unfortunately I've been away six months of that.

Surprised at the Tatlows parting. Should say it was her who was the cause of it. Wasn't aware that she had been in the forces before. Maybe his health had a lot to do with it, don't think he was very strong.

Try to get this letter finished to-night if I can. Won't have much time the next couple of days. Remember the place you thought we were at before I contradicted it. Think Mam told you we were there. That's where we are going to. Not much success in trying to let you know where we are at present. Mam tells me Fred forgot the place he mentioned. Doesn't really matter, its away from you & baby that's the only trouble. Writing this by candle light, its about 9.30pm. We can have a bit of light now, not like it was a bit back.

Inquired about R.Llewellyn Lloyds age. Not yet forty exact age his servant didn't know. That was the days darling when I use to deliver the butter to Mrs Hunt, always a couple of pound missing or badly damaged. Often think Jimmy Jones at the station, bet he isn't short of anything. Remember it said he wasn't in the last war, let alone this. Think I will have to close darling. Planes about, probably ours but you never know. Finish off in the morning. Good-night Pen & Marguerite.

6th August

Good morning darling, its now about 6.30am. Bit early, but the sooner I get it away the better. Enclosing three Postal orders for Marguerite, it will help her savings on a bit. Hope it gets there alright. Was pleased to read darling that if you want to the dance, you would be a good girl. I have got your word for it, cannot have much more. If it helps to make the time go quicker for you., I am all for you going. You must excuse me darling if my letters aren't to keen, when you mention dances.

What kind of August did you have darling. We had the usual, It was August week-end, but didn't notice it till it was nearly over. Mam was saying in her letter how well you & Marguerite looked. Thought the Newnham air suited you, but hoped you wouldn't be there for the winter.

Another officer going back to England. Captain McVitie the race horse trainer. He was in charge of the carriers, but Egerton did most of the work in the campaign. Now E is in charge of the carriers, hope he will let the officer under him do most of it. Mcvitie is going back owing to ill health. Don't think E will be as artful as he was. That won't interest you much Pen, its something to write.

About 6.30am now & I can picture you & Marguerite alright sleeping. Also picture myself arriving home very often. Before the month is out we shall have some idea what is gong to happen. The rumours are still very good, but you know how to treat them darling. See about closing now. Will write an air mail soon as I get it. My thoughts are always home with you darling. All the best to you both. Be seeing you. Cheerio Pen.

Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
Support Company. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

Tuesday 10th August 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Sorry I haven't been able to write the last couple of days. Even now its getting dark, so won't be able to write much. Received air mail 53 a couple of days ago. Also a heap of newspapers. Yours & mothers about equal. Plenty to read for a bit. Afraid its getting to dark darling. Will continue to-morrow. Good-night my darling & Marguerite.

Wednesday 3.30pm

Hullo darling, endeavour to carry on now. Letter 53 in front of me to comment on anything. The dolls cot should be a useful addition for Marguerite Pen. As regards the other item. There will only be, if its an accident. Think that's the best way darling. Just received air mail 54 & one from Beat.

The trip to Cheltenham should be a change for you darling. Be able to talk over old times. Marguerite must be very inquisitive, trying to make a sewing machine go. Hope your sixth sense is somewhere near darling. To walk in & surprise you would be OK. Been thinking, when I do get there I only want you & baby there the first time I see you.

Beat came nearest in guessing where we were. We were at No1 she will tell you where that is. Guess you & Beat will be able to miss going to work. Being that you both have a home. Must be getting some glorious weather there now darling. Just the weather for visiting the lock. Do a bit of sunbathing. I sent three half crown P.Orders for Marguerite. Let me know if they arrive OK.

Doing my trousers & getting my boots mended. Must come home soon darling, before they spoil, just in case we don't get home for our anniversary darling. My thoughts will be with you, thinking of it. The chances are still 50-50. One small item has happened which I cannot mention. No one really knows what is going to happen. Shall be looking forward to photos darling. Might get our mail a lot quicker now. Yes we only get ground sheets & blankets darling, & mosquito net. Only suppose to have two blankets but I've got three. Manage to make it a bit softer with overcoat & battle dress blouse we still have. Mr Egerton also let me use his sleeping bag. Makes it better still.

Shall have to write to Lydney, nearly a week now. Shall have to look up my German diary to see the date. Loose all sense of days or dates. There's one sentence I'm still trying to fathom out darling. Its after you asked what we slept on. Says "fancy your spouse not knowing that". Looks very much like the name where we just come from. Or in other words No1. Beat can tell you where that is. I've read it two or three times. Might fluff to it after I've posted this. Think I will see about closing now Pen. Will write a more interesting letter in the green envelope I have. I long for the day darling. Which will come sometime. Hundreds , even thousands are praying for the same time. Then when its only a memory. I should be with you, making up for lost time.

All my love to you & Marguerite. Cheerio Darling.

Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
Support Company. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards. BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

Sunday 13th August 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Just a few lines for the green envelope. Up till now it won't be very interesting darling. Unless I get a sudden inspiration. As I wrote in my previous air mail. We are at the place now, where Mam told you we were. Let me know if you fluff Pen. Had another air mail in six days. Not quite so far to come now, but far enough. Sicily is ours at last, official I think this time. We had so many rumours before. Expect you will think my mail is slipping darling. But I hope you can guess why I haven't wrote for a couple of days.

Mam says how well you & Marguerite looks. Said its amusing to watch marguerite when she pulls anything out of the oven. Without a doubt she must be cute darling. Sorry to read she gets a paddy Pen. Must be a bit to blame, Because I always wanted some interesting subject. Routine use to get me down. But I know what I want now, that quiet life. That will only last so long as I have you & baby. Which I hope will be always, it gives me a sense of responsibility.

Got a drill parade on to-morrow, also practising the march past. Only the second since we have been out here, so cannot grumble. Expect there will be a few falling out owing to the heat. Getting a bit dark now darling. Close till to-morrow. Good-night Pen & Marguerite.

Sunday morning darling, nothing very interesting to write about again. No sign of any war on, round this part. Still less when I get to sleep about 3.30pm. Better off for books these days, plenty to read. Not yet received your murder story darling. Nor any comment on the book you were suppose to burn. Expect its too bad, & you don't like to send it. No sea bathing these days, plenty of sunbathing though.

Just received two air mails Pen. 55 & 56. Lifted my spirits up 100%. There were two very nice air mails darling. Your parcels of sweets, books & handkerchiefs are very welcome darling. Only got one handkerchief now. Egerton only got three now, he lost a dozen or so when his bed went up in smoke. Wonder if you can picture me now, I will try to describe the position. Writing this on my bed under a mosquito net, just my shorts on, to hot to wear anything else. Plenty of writing materials about except air mails. The place is covered with your air mails darling. Still don't like to destroy them.

This might make your mouth water darling. I've also got a bunch of grapes & a melon. You were right about Aunt Susan. But of course its changed now. Another good job done by having Marguerite immunized. She behave like an hero. The thrill I shall get darling when I see you again is indescribable. Be a good idea to think of nothing else but to stay at home for the first month. Can see by your letters, you are like me darling. Living only for that time to arrive.

This must be my lucky day, just received your air mail 57. That's three this afternoon. Put me off my sleep darling, thinking of you. This letter won't get there fast enough to let you know I've received them. Grand news Marguerite walking. I try to picture her toddling round with the basket. If only we could call a stop to the present life of you & baby till I get home. Then carry on like the item on the wireless. Carry on London, when I get there. Fortunately there's plenty of time for me to get home & watch her childish pranks. You would be surprised how I follow Marguerites progress from your letters. You describe them so well darling, putting in the smallest detail, which I find so interesting. The average time it takes air mails now six days. Less than a week, wish they could sped them up a bit from this end. Censoring probably takes the time. Cannot think what the couple of words was they crossed out in Mams letter.

By the way darling, I get cross eyed reading your last letter. When you write across the air mail, I have to go back two or three times to pick up the correct line. Makes the letter last longer though. I remember the abbreviations better now darling. R.P.R, S.W.A.L.K. The best I think is B.O.L.T.O.P. Because without doubt its better that way. Soon the pleasure will be mine, or ours darling. One of the company's here got a bell, which they ring at meal times. Sounds like the old school bell, which is as much out of place here, as I am. They might cross this out darling, but we are camped in a wood. Which isn't unlike England till you get out of the wood. Very pleasant here amongst the trees. But would prefer those at Foxes Bridge.

See about closing Pen, write an air mail soon as I can get hold of one. Though my closing words might not sound so good as yours always are darling. You & baby are always with me. I see you both in everything I do. May luck or should I say God soon bring us together again, sooner than we expect. I hope darling.

All my love to you both. Your ever loving husband Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D

PS. Just re read an air mail from you dated 19th March. There is an abb. I've forgotten. I love you W.A.M.H.A.S. I know, when awake, then I'm pushed darling.

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
Support Company. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

Wednesday 18th August 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

This will probably arrive before the green envelope I sent yesterday. I have received all your air mails in rotation up to No 57. Commented mostly in the green envelope. So if I repeat anything you will understand.

We are still on routine, that's nothing interesting happening. I do a good deal of reading. Looking forward to the arrival of your books. Its about 11.0am now, cup of char time. We had ours about half an hour ago.. Do most of work in morning while its cool. Try to sleep in the afternoon but its generally to hot. So we buy a bunch of grapes & read. Get very little news here. Might now & the get a bulletin put up. But more often than not its forgotten.

Is the wireless much good when its going darling. Or do you have to sit on top of it to hear. Expect all mains sets are very scarce now. Hope to get one soon as possible. Wish you could get one for the winter. Don't suppose Fred see's any now. Joan Mustoe etc very lucky people. But I suppose after the war they will be saying, OH he stopped at home. Also Beat & Sid are lucky. But when I get back home, it won't seem so long that I have been away. If I hadn't come out here I wouldn't have minded what people said. Naturally wife & daughter & home comes first. Then I suppose carrying the war out this way saved us having it over there. Which is a good thing when you come to think of it. Would have had worse times if you & baby had been in danger. But come what will, if I had the chance to stop the day I left. Don't think I should have seen North Africa. Still that's neither here nor there darling. All my interest is getting back sharper yet. We still have an idea we shall be home soon.

Had that alarm clock mended, its going fine. Rather dear though 50 francs or 5/-. Mr Egerton had his watch mended, cost 150 francs or 15/-. Our Fred would make a bit of money clock mending at that rate. Be a good souvenir Pen if I can get it home OK. Shall be happy when its by our own bedside table. Set at 7.0am to get up at 7.30am. That's if its still in working order. My reputation with clocks & watches isn't so good up till now. About 6.0pm now darling, nice & cool. We get a cup of tea about seven. Then to bed to bed after that, that's our average evening darling. Might have a talk or something or other. Last night it was about film stars. Trying to remember the oldest ones.

The company is getting a concert together again. See we've got the piano towards it. Looks like rain just now, fancy I can hear a little thunder. Be a dash just now to get the kits inside. We've got a tent but prefer to sleep outside when its fine. Its thunder alright, will try to finish this darling. Don't suppose it will be much.

Our anniversary is getting nearer darling, still no sign of being able to get there. Also be the fourth year of the war, my third year. Good job I couldn't foresee how long I should be in the army. Well darling will see about closing. Start another soon as possible. The thunder still rolling. Let it come, might make the grass grow.

Be seeing you Pen. All my love to you & baby. Always thinking of you. Cheerio Darling.

Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D

Mayfair
Newnham
Glos

19-8-43 (*Mum to Dad*) No. 62

My Darling Bert

Looks as though this month will soon be gone very pleased to have four air letter dated August 10th as it doesn't seem so long ago, to know you were all right then & that you had one from me 19 days ago, & with the one I posted today I have posted today I have posted 7 since then. Marguerite went to bed earlier to night. 7 o'clock punctual didn't stay out quite so long today. I took her to the nurse to be weighed, 22lb this time.

While writing this I'm looking at your letter to see if I can reply to anything. I expect I told you I didn't go to Cheltenham when I mentioned I was going. I should hope I have more than six senses these days & in the near future when she is walking. I see you have mentioned P. Orders in this one funny I should mention it in the one I posted today. Should like to know what the one small item is that happened which you can't mention, making me feel rather curious, wondering if it is something personal or something concerning the war.

Try to go to Gloucester tomorrow & see if the photos have arrived hope I shan't be disappointed again, they ought to be good shall probably be able to say at the end of this letter my luck. Rarely look at the address you put darling, get on with reading the rest but have just noticed that you have put Support Company would HQ & that be one & the same. Spouse is a funny word darling didn't think perhaps you would know that one. I think it means either wife or husband couldn't say definitely if it does.

Getting late again, I didn't have too good a night last night too much supper perhaps, after 12 & then I wake up again for a bit. If you were here I expect we should be asleep before 12 don't you think, I lay at the bottom of the bed smoking a Craven A above all things, in the moonlight & of course thinking of you of the past & trying to picture the future. Guess after you come home you may want to sleep in the open spaces. Wondering No 1 happens to be Susa have to (*sic Sousa*) see what Beat says. I think they are coming back on Saturday. I washed my hair tonight always feels better afterwards. 11 just struck I shan't be long, got my dress off ready.

News still looks good, something else will be happening just now. I should think, I hope its the finish too, for I don't want to be fat & forty when you come home. Miss T had Marguerite in her arms for the first time today, took her to see the cats, she went all right. I'll close for now darling. Leave space for a P.S.

Goodnight my darling take care of yourself. All my love & Marguerites. Hope to be seeing you soon. I.T.A.L.Y.D. Always your Loving Wife & Pen & Marguerite

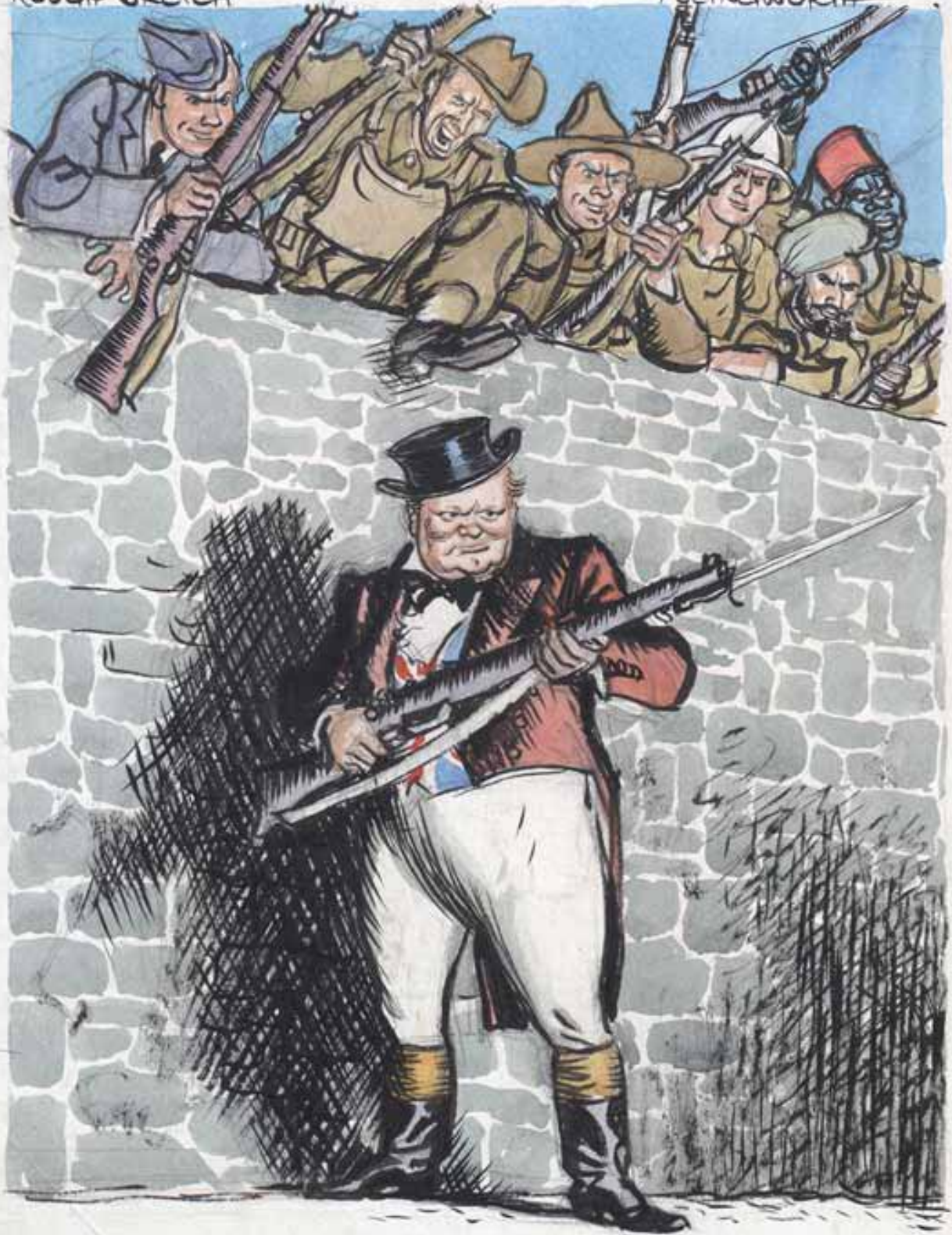
Suppose by the time you get this darling it will be practically time for our anniversary guess my thoughts will be with you too darling.

20.8.43.

No letters today darling & it was a wet morning so I didn't go to Glos. This morning. We have just had our dinner think I shall have a cup of tea, I don't bother as a rule, if it cleared up enough by three would go then & back on the 5.20 if not leave it until tomorrow. Post this just now, hope this finds you well & not too browned off darling. M has learnt the way to get down now out of the arm chair she goes very carefully she can get on the sofa too. Perhaps Mam will tell you how she put her arms around Robert she does to me too. Lots of Love.

ROUGH SKETCH

ILLINGWORTH



Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
Support Company. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

Thursday 19th August 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Few lines to swell my mail a bit. Got a few extra air mails & a couple dozen green envelopes. E worked the trick. Going to put this in a green envelope, send it to the base censor. May get there a bit quicker. A lot of time is wasted here now then, before they are censored.

Paid a visit to Constantine this week. Went to swimming baths, which was marvellous. The surrounding scenery was wonderful. Cliffs of rocks towering in the air, with house's built on the top. There is a suspension bridge as big as Clifton, & one or two smaller ones. To look down it gives you a bit of a sensation. The town is built on a hill, with these deep ravines running through. Lifts my estimation of North Africa a bit. To-day we formed a guard of honour for the Frenchman in charge of Algeria, forget his name.

It's about 7.0pm now darling, nothing to do except read. Some of the concert party are practising for to-morrow night. The piano sounds good, useful player there. Knocks out a bit of Rhythm, which lifts your spirit up a bit. Be damned sight better if it was in our sitting room darling. Blue Danube Waltz playing now. Continue to-morrow. Good-night Pen & Marguerite.

Friday 20th August 1943

6.30 Hullo darling just a few lines before the concert. But I might stop here can listen just as well. Nothing very interesting to write as yet. One topic is that I've got six bottles of beer this week. A record since we've been out here. Should think winter is approaching, its very thundery the last couple of days. But not much rain as yet. The concert is going on, hope it doesn't rain. Think I'll nip up & see what its like.

By my alarm clock darling 9.15pm. Concert was OK, it was on till it got dark. Writing this by candle light, just opened a bottle of beer. Needless to say darling, my mind is on you & baby. No concerts, beer or anything can make me forget for a moment. Not exactly miserable, but do I long to be home with you. Expect you are having a bit of supper darling. Marguerite I hope goes to bed better now. In your next letter, shall expect to read that she is running. But not to mischievous, in case she gets hurt. See about a bit of sleep darling. Good-night Pen & Marguerite.

Saturday 21st August 1943

Char time darling 11.0am, on another Saturday. The days & weeks still go quick. But it still seems like yrs we've been out here instead of just over six months. But there's one thing certain, they won't keep us in this country. Still a lot of straightening up to do, prisoners etc. Suppose we shall know what's happening one day. If the war isn't over before they decide. Don't know how you view the prospects of us coming home darling. Don't thing anyone knows a thing. I'll just say its still fifty fifty chance. Not very encouraging darling. This is about the hardest letter I've written. Its excusable darling, because things are very quiet. Ready for some more papers to. Be here any time now. Generally a month old news we read. By them the war is as good as won. Certain bits about unrest in Germany, which might be right. If they are, we might get a surprise & Germany crack up. Full of hope anyway. Managed to fill the air mail with something darling.

So will close now. With my thoughts always with you & baby.

Cheerio Pen & Marguerite.

Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D

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20th Aug 1943 XXX

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Not exactly miserable, but do I long to
be home with you. Expect you are having
a bit of supper now darling. Marguerite
hope goes to bed better now. In your
next letter, shall expect to read that
she is nursing. But not to miserable,
in case she gets hurt. See about a bit of
sleep darling. Good-night Pen-Marguerite XXX

Sunday 19th Aug. 1943

John Griffiths 1711
Support Company
3rd Bn Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

My own darling Wife & Daughter
I'll swell my mail a bit. Got a few extra
air mails, - a couple of dozen green
envelopes. I worked the trick. Going
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air, with houses built on the top. There
is a suspension bridge as big as Clifton,
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it gives you a bit of a sensation. The town
is built on a hill, with three deep
ravines running through. Left my estimation
of north altered a bit. To-day we formed
a guard of honour for the Frenchman
in charge of Algeria, forget his name.
Its about 4.30 now darling, nothing to
do except read. Some of the concert party
are practising for to-morrow night. The
piano sounds good, useful player there.
Knocks out a bit of rhythm, which lifts

Saturday 21st Aug 1943

Char time darling 11:0 am on
another Saturday. The days & weeks still
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surprise - Germany crash up. Full of
hope anyway. Managed to fill the air
mail with something darling. So will close
now. With my thoughts always with you
- baby. Cheers Pen-Marguerite
XXX X your ever loving husband
I.T.A.L.Y.D.V.M. XXX Bert XXXXXX

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL



MRS A. BEIRLEY

MAYFAIR

NEWNHAM-ON-SEVERN

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ENGLAND

Arms Code 10 1117

Second fold here

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
Support Company. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

Monday 23rd August 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Forgot to mention the slight alteration in the address. We are now called the Support Coy. Doesn't make a lot of difference, just make sure your mail doesn't get held up. Nothing through in the way of mail the last couple of days. Still got it to look forward to darling, news is just the same, nothing interesting. Sunday was very quiet, lazing in the sun all the afternoon. Sorry darling cannot think of anything. There's three letters on the way, must have taken all my writing powers.

Tuesday 24th Aug.

Hullo darling, you saved me from being a bit browned off to-night. Two air mails & two lots of 'Daily Mails', were dated 15, 16 & 20th to give you some idea how long the air mails took. 58 was posted on the 11th & 59 was posted on the 14th. That's twelve days & nine days. The service is slipping a bit I've had some in six days. Still there here that's the main thing darling. Glad to say I've no sign of toothache now, must have been a cold, so will skip going to dentist. Your letters are a tonic darling. Read them once, will be reading them a couple more times yet. Anything I missed will comment on later. Glad you know I get the Andrews from the N.A.F.F.I. Got another tin last night. We have another concert on to-night at 7.0pm. Near that now, its strangers this time, so expect I shall go. The winter won't be long now darling. You & Marguerite will miss being by the river.

Just back from the concert. Its dark, but I've got a candle. Concert wasn't to bad. They hardly ever miss playing these two songs. 'You are my sunshine' & 'Jealousy,' That word doesn't seem right darling. Probably you can guess. They are nice songs, but sometimes I wish they wouldn't play. Because they make you feel browned off after. Yet its good to hear them. Also a chap with a pack of cards, he was very good. Not so good was a French woman singing French songs. And here I am ready for bed, but not very sleepy. Doubt if you know it darling, but my mind is in our two rooms with you & baby. Its about 9.30pm now, cannot guess what you are doing. Having a cup of char wouldn't be a bad guess. Would like one myself. That will be the day when we can get one when we like. For always, not just for ten days.

Churchill talks in Canada are coming to a close. Then we shall probably get the low down. The army isn't engaged at present. Something will have to get cracking. Russia is doing marvellous. In the summer period to. According to that they should do better in the winter. What they've done before is always been done in the winter. My pen wasn't going so well when I started, but its perfect now. We got our kit bags back one day this week. Not seen them since just after we got here. I hadn't left anything interesting behind though, took it all with me. The chap I told you whose wife was expecting, had a son 7.5 lbs. He's gone to another company now. Another servant here who got married just before we came out. He keeps on "what a life," But we all pass that comment. Being a family man, I should add that he's got no children. Expect Marguerite will be a bit nervous for a bit. But one day she will see something exciting. Then she will be getting along without any nervousness. What a change in her I shall see when I next see her. So long as I am not away to long for her not to know I have been away. Have to close now darling. Then in between the old blankets. Roll on when its sheets & you, also the cup of tea in bed.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio & God bless you both.

Your ever loving husband Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
Support Company. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

Wednesday 25th August 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Writing this while I am chewing plums darling. Which reminds me you have made some plum jam. These would be OK for jam. They are very small, yellow, but they are sweet. You must think we do well in the fruit line darling. Wondering to-day if I did right in putting what I did in my last letter. If you remember, I put roll on when we can sleep in some sheets. Don't suppose the censor noticed it. They only look for names of towns or names. Think you mentioned a bit back where you read the articles by Ann Temple. I read them to-day very interesting, without a doubt writing home about our plans for the future. Keeps us, as I said before full of hope. I want you & our home darling & I bless the day that Marguerite arrived to bind us together more. The path has been a bit risky & it might be again. But I have confidence of getting there. As we all know, we might be unlucky. But the chances are good & there's thousands taking the same chance.

What a thrilling letter darling, just when you want something to cheer you both up. It cheers me when I think of when we are together again. Wouldn't it cheer anyone specially what I'm thinking now. And it isn't going out for a quick one. Your right darling, aren't you ashamed of your husband. Writing like this, only excuse I can offer is that as per usual there's very little to write about. Whatever happens, rain, fire or water, you must get your mail. Just what Ann Temple said. We rely on our letters, when things look black & you feel brownd off. Most of all lonely, just get the old pad out. Have a few words, in sort of a conversation. Only thing is you got to wait for the answer. Must be terrible if you got no one to answer you back. Probably some of the chaps in the French Foreign Legion never do much writing. Did I tell you we were camped near them just after the campaign. I was disappointed in them, the books & films overdone it. Getting dark darling, so will close for to-night, finish tomorrow. Goodnight my darling & Marguerite.

Thursday 26th

Hullo darling, just received air mail no 60 & one from Mam. The average of 10 a month you've sent is about right. I've got that I expect to receive three or four a week. Wouldn't I like to be there to do the white washing. Not much to be done so I could make a good job of it. Very good of your Mother to come & do it. You are supposed to be wrapped in cotton wool darling, as the song goes, besides its not the sort of job for you. Can picture you looking pretty white darling if you had a go. That's just something to write about Pen. Without a doubt you are capable of having a go.

Bit of bad luck about the photos, cant be helped if there not ready. Looking forward to them darling, Marguerite will sure to have altered. Nice to read that people admire her hair. Yes certainly looking forward to the photos. The rest I've got are still in perfect condition. Received a parcel from G.W.R C.Fund this morning. It had been addressed to Hampstead. Contained a novel called "Speedy Death," Don't know if they are in a hurry to cease paying my wages. But its a good book. Think I will send it, can put a badge in you asked for. Only one I've got, so it will be OK. I'm down for another one. That's if I can get it pass E. Might mention it, because they have to sign all parcels. Will see about closing now Pen. Start another soon as I've written to Lydney. Always my thoughts are with you & Marguerite.

All my love to you both. Be seeing you. Cheerio Darling.

Your ever loving husband Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D

Gdsn A. J. Beizsley 7741
Support Company. 3rd Battalion
Welsh Guards
BNAF

Mrs A. Beizsley
c/o Mayfair, Newnham on Severn

Sunday 29th August 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Another Sunday to-wards a lot of things darling. Five more days to our anniversary. Seven for the third year in the army. Which I think entitles you to small rise, for my being in three years. Don't suppose it will be much darling. Four years the war has been on, guess it will be a bit longer than the other after all. Saw a good picture last night. Bing Crosby in "Holiday Inn." It was a mobile cinema which visited us. Very good, after I saw it I could have written a very emotional letter last night. But it was a bit late so went asleep instead. Very often get like that, specially after a picture. Makes me long to be with you, to do some of the things they do on the pictures, dancing etc darling. We will go now & then later on. Arrange that Marguerite will be alright. Don't suppose it will be to often though.

There is an air mail no. 61 which hasn't turned up yet Pen. Might arrive later on. I mentioned it because I've had no.62. Must be the one where you mentioned Postal Orders in. In case you've forgotten this is what you wrote. "I see you mentioned Postal Orders in this one, funny I should mentioned it in the one I posted to-day." That one must be no.61 darling. The small item I couldn't mention before, was the feet that we are now a few more hundred miles nearer home than what we were before. Hardly worth mentioning darling. But something to write about. Don't think the enemy could make anything of that. Had a chat with an officer to-day about the Gloster Cardiff road. He knows Newnham well, specially Brightlands Preparatory School. Said he stopped at an Hotel one night at the bottom of Newnham. But I couldn't make out where that was. There's some char about darling continue late.

Tuesday 31st

A treat to-day darling, I received the liquorice allsorts, actually they arrived last night. See you sent them on 5th Aug, so they take about three weeks. Last time I had any was just before the do at Hammam Lif. Get mostly chocolate now, two or three bars a week. I appreciate you sending them darling, knowing you like them, also that they are scarce in England. Three days to our anniversary darling. What optimism to think I might be there. Still that's how the rumours went.

Good rumour yesterday, not that I think there's much in it. Montgomery suppose to have told them in Sicily, that the war would only last a hundred days after the fall of the island. Appears silly to me but that's how it goes. Would probably have been in the papers, such a statement as that. Wish there was something in it though. Touch of winter here this morning, coldest for some time. Probably getting the same in England.

Wish you had got a decent wireless for the winter darling. Mention it at Lydney again, they've probably forgotten.. Sounds as though I don't think we shall be home for a bit darling. But its still likely that anything can happen. No one knows anything. Will post this immediately Pen.

Tuesday to-day, the most likely day for air mail. Like you darling, wants to many letters, never satisfied. Only natural being that its the next best thing to being with you. Cannot be long now, one more big job should see the end of the war. Kiss for Marguerite. Emotion unable to write on paper for you darling.

All my love to you both.

Your ever loving husband Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D



**Near El Garia
October 2009**



**North of Makthar
October 2009**

September 1943

2-9-43

"Now about 7.30pm on the eve of our anniversary. Shall think of it Pen at the same time as you."

3-9-43

"See we've celebrated the fourth year of the war by invading Italy. Still waiting for the first news of how we are progressing. Seems as if they are saving us for Berlin. Goes to show what an army we've got, getting on with these different operations without bothering us. On the whole the war situation looks very good. According to the attitude of the Italians we've seen, there won't be much trouble in Italy. But it doesn't do to be too optimistic."

27-9-43

"But I see the Russians are still doing well. Taken Smolensk & nearly in Kiev. Also Corsica is nearly ours. Not yet heard the position in Italy. Doing well, but should like to see Germany pack in, so that I could be with you a bit sharp."

30-9-43

"Egerton just come in with a bad cold, took a couple of aspirins & gone to bed. Did I ever tell you he's a Captain now, think I did while we were at Sousse."





Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire
England

Thursday Sept 2nd 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Now about 7.30pm on the eve of our anniversary. Shall think of it Pen at the same time as you. We have a church parade at seven in the morning. Presumably for the fourth year of the war. I received air mail 61 to-day. That's the one that was missing. Cannot picture Marguerite pushing the pram, but would dearly liked to have seen her. About the Postal Orders Pen, if they have arrived. Bit of bad luck if you cannot change them, at least one might be alright. But I fancy you might manage to get them changed. Mother seems to think she knows when I shall be home. Hope it isn't far off. Also received the three sixpenny novels you sent darling. Read two of them, very good to. Getting dark darling, have to shine a few brasses on my belt for the morning. Expect I shall be pushed if I leave it till the morning. Have a shave as well, can have a few extra minutes in bed then. Good-night darling.

Friday 3rd Sept.

Good morning darling. 11.30am not sure about the exact time, but it's about now that we were to be married. If only we had been able to have more time to enjoy it. Another way to look at it though. We've still got it to come, & maybe more money to play with.

See we've celebrated the fourth year of the war by invading Italy. Still waiting for the first news of how we are progressing. Seems as if they are saving us for Berlin. Goes to show what an army we've got, getting on with these different operations without bothering us. On the whole the war situation looks very good. According to the attitude of the Italians we've seen, there won't be much trouble in Italy. But it doesn't do to be to optimistic.

We attended our church parade at seven this morning. Was only just getting light at that time. The swings in the park darling, where you took Marguerite & Robert. I've spent many an hour on them. 6.30pm Remember we went to the pictures this time three years ago. I enjoyed it darling. But the future is the thing. Waiting patiently for the first news of the invasion of Italy. Quicker they are finished off the better. Seems to good to be true, the way we are progressing.

Still not wrote to your Mam. It's the reading I do, soon as I have 5 mutes to spare I grab the book. The air mails are a bit late this week. Hope to get some tomorrow. Decided against sending that book darling. Hardly seems worth it. Got three pair of socks, I might send to get the badge home. Continue tomorrow.

4th Sept 1943

Hullo darling remember this day three years ago. Met someone from Blakeney last night. Been here all the time but I didn't know. Fancy I can remember him driving a lorry about that district. Expect to read in your letters, if you have guessed where we are at present. Post is very late this week, must be the Italy job. By the news we are doing OK, also Berlin getting some pasting. But you know about it as soon as us. Old news by the time you receive this.

Sunday 5th Sept

Just finish this off darling, no mail arrived as yet. Start another letter later. Kiss for Marguerite from me Pen. Roll on the time I am anxiously waiting for.

All my love to you both darling.

Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.V.M.



Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire
England

Wednesday 15th Sept 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Received air mail 68 last night No. 67 to come yet. Hope the photographs won't be long getting here. To see that mischievous look of Marguerite & your most recent smile darling. A little kitten for her would be alright Pen. Sorry to read about her face ache it might pull her back a bit just when she is coming on so well. Mam said you both looked very well.

We go into that town once a week. Getting tired of it now. There's two picture houses there. I've been twice, saw a very old picture 'The Sea Hawk' & Judy Garland in "Little Nellie Kelly", both pretty good pictures. The later one was a picture of a little girl growing up. I classed Marguerite in all she done, hoping to do the same myself for her. Her mother also was a great dancer. That's where you come in Pen. Same as numerous times before when the couple are out on a little spree. I long for the time when we can do the same. But don't get anxious about not being able to dance very well. I would like the pleasure in assisting you & learning new steps myself.

To travel to these places wouldn't be so bad. But not to stop long, doesn't matter what town there is out here. They all have the same horrible smells. If it wasn't for the swimming baths & a drop of weak beer, also the pictures I wouldn't bother to go. Hope you are able to get you Mothers things back alright, you will have more room then darling. Wish I was able to get you a sideboard. Will have to find out my position as far as money is concerned. Did you receive those Postal Orders after. Even if they aren't any good, would like to know if they arrived.

Egerton got the toothache last couple of days. Had one out yesterday his face looks a trifle bigger to-day. Glad I don't get it now, better touch wood though. Expect to have battle dress the next couple of days. Probably on account of the winter is near. Of course it could be for coming home. But I'm not depending on it, might be that it's a bit colder at present in Europe. One never knows. The blouse I've got is full of shrapnel holes in the arm. But fortunately I wasn't wearing it at the time. It was hung up in the carrier.

Have written two air graphs to you, but I expect this will get there first. Just for curiosity, could you send me one back. So that I can see how the writing turns out. Can then judge how big the writing ought to be. Some peoples writing must look plainer than others. It's about six in the evening now Pen. Nothing much to look forward to, got a book which isn't so bad, called 'Haunted Lady.' Only read a couple of pages as yet.

Not doing so well in Italy at present. Bit early yet to expect results. The Russians are still going great, hope they can keep it up. Coming to a close darling. Hope this letter is a bit interesting. Plenty of green envelopes at present. Will start one after this.

Cheerio My darling. Always you are both in my thoughts. Don't think I've ever used the expression I love you. But that goes without saying. Action speaks louder than words. Be seeing you Pen.

All my love darling.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

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anxious about not being able to dance
very well. I would like the pleasure in
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You will have more room than darling
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His face looks a trifle bigger to-day.
Glad I don't get it now. Better touch
wood though. Expect to have bottle drawers
the next couple of days. Probably on
account of the winter is near. Of
course it could be for coming home.
But I'm not depending on it, might
be that it's a bit colder at present times
in Europe. One never knows. The blower

Wednesday 15th Sept. 1903
Edna H. Beizley
Support Company
3rd Battalion Welsh
B. H. A. F.
My Own Darling Wife & Daughter
Received air mail
last night. No. 67 to come yet. Hope
the photographs won't be long getting here.
To see that mischievous look of Marguerite
& your most recent smile adoring.
A little button for her would be alright.
Pen. Sorry to read about her face ache.
at night pull her back a bit, just when
she is coming on so well. Mam said
you both looked very well. We go
into that town once a week. Getting
tired of it now. There's two picture
houses there. I've been twice, saw a
very old picture "The Sea Hawk" &
judith Garland in "Little Nellie Kelly". Both
pretty good pictures. The later one was
a picture of a little girl growing up.
I cleared Marguerite in all she done,
hoping to do the same myself for her.
Her mother also was a great dancer. That's
where you come in Pen. I have as numerous
where you come in Pen. I have as numerous
a little space. I long for the time when

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always you are both in my thoughts.
Don't think I've ever used the expression
I love you. But that goes without saying.
action speaks louder than words. Be seeing
you Pen. All my love Darling. Your ever loving
E. H. A. F. D. R. X. X. X. Husband. Best X. X. X.

BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.

MRS. H. BEIZLEY
MAIFAIR
NEUNHAM-ON-SEVERN
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ENGLAND

FIELD POST OFFICE
MAIFAIR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ENGLAND

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire
England

Friday 17th Sept 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Received air mail 70 to-day. That leaves another missing no. 69. Unless you mistook the numbers darling. One received to-day was posted on 10th, so that's seven days. They are improving again. Mine seem to take a long time to leave the base. Seven & eight days to get from here to the base & away again. Expect they've got a lot to do.

I enjoyed the letter to-day Pen. Glad you got your mothers things away OK. Don't expect Marguerite noticed the ride much yet. Improvement in her walking is a good sign. Expect you are proud Pen to see her getting along, know I would have been. Excuse me for saying so Pen, but I wonder if the old man is going to start his tricks again.

Had E.N.S.A concert the other night, they sang that song "Whispering Grass", tried to remember the words, but I've forgotten. Not heard the one you mentioned, might do any time. We have a wireless in the canteen. So we get the news. That about Italy was good, but there's still a bit of fighting there. The Russians continue to do well. Roll on a bit of luck, let me get home to you both. We are nearer the end, then when I was in England. That's worth a bit. Not unlikely that it will end soon. Specially when they get all the planes going that have been released out here. Get the airfields in Italy, then I cannot see how Germany will stand the bombing. That's why she is fighting so desperately in Italy at present. You can say that the bombing of Germany will be doubled when that occurs. Also Russia coming within easier striking distance. That's my idea darling, I firmly believe Germany won't be able to stand the bombing that's coming to her. Nobody can be expected to, much less Germany. That's enough of military views. More for talking about us, you, & baby & myself.

Your mention of the tug-of-war with sheets, bring back memories darling. "OH" well the old familiar phrase roll on. The winter is very near Pen, must try to keep my letters cheerful Might help a bit darling the nights. Getting dark now, had to come out of the tent. Bit lighter outside, its about 7.30pm now. Go up & listen to the news at 8.0pm. That's the nine news in England I believe. Practice for a drill competition to-morrow. Needless to say I won't enjoy that.

Telling them at Lydney, in my letter I am sending the same time as this. About the scorpions we get here. Had three in our tent since we've been here. Have a thorough inspection before we go to sleep at night. They are like a small crab, with a tail bending over towards the back of its head. That's where the poison is, has to be cut out if you get a sting. Not really dangerous but not the best things to have hanging around. Some of the boys have caught one or two. Placed a ring of petrol around one, then lit it. When they see they cannot escape, you can see them strike the back of their head with their tail. Or stinging themselves, thus committing suicide. That's a bit of nature study Pen.

Getting near the bottom so will see about closing. Start another airgraph tomorrow. Still looking forward to the photos.

Be seeing you. Cheerio My darling Wife & Daughter.

All my love

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire
England

Monday 27th Sept 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Just arrived back off leave. Has been a very lazy time, except for plenty of swimming. I didn't write much while I was there. Started a few lines to you, but it came on to rain very sudden one night & it was spoilt. In any case couldn't post it until we got back here.

Received a letter from you & Mam. Might be more up at the post corporal place. Hope the photos have come. Mam said they were very good.

Very little news while we were at the rest camp darling. But I see the Russians are still doing well. Taken Smolensk & nearly in Kiev. Also Corsica is nearly ours. Not yet heard the position in Italy. Doing well, but should like to see Germany pack in, so that I could be with you a bit sharp. So that I could take your mind off thunderstorms, give your hair a good rub, I've done it once before.

Seems as though the P. Orders have gone astray Pen. Miss T must be proud of her love letters. Also he must be full of hope. Gets dark very early here now, the clocks have been altered, dark about 6.30pm. It's about 8.0pm now, got a new candle, so will be able to get this away in the morning. A week without posting a letter, means a week or maybe more before you get a letter. I don't like that to happen. Tell Son he is talking silly if he is browned off with civvy street. Suppose we are all the same, just won't be told. Must find out for ourselves.

If Lorna came to stop with you darling, it would be company for you. But I will admit that I didn't fancy the idea when I read it. But take no notice darling I know its selfishness & silly to think that way. But its prove I think to much of you to take any chances. I could write any amount of things to prove how the company would help you, make the time go quicker, while I am away. The rest would be pessimistic & not very cheerful. But never the less, it would make it much more pleasanter for you. All that is getting us nowhere, & it will put you off inviting her down. Don't want to do that, anything you do darling will always be OK by me.

I see the airgraph I sent before going on leave. They crossed out the place where we were going. We can describe it that doesn't matter according to Egerton. Bet the base censor would have let it through. Was very pretty cove we went to. A good beach & the water nice & clear. Big mountains each side of it. Only drawback as per usual, to many Arabs kicking about. Three cafes there, but no beer. Muscatel wasn't to bad, bur I don't like much. Glad you will be getting oranges & lemons at Xmas. They are a bit green out here as yet, but eatable. Oranges aren't a bit sour.

Christmas, I don't fancy being out here darling. But you never know what's around the corner. Might even have the pleasure of helping to fill Marguerites stocking. Bit early yet though, probably wouldn't understand. Well my darling will have to close. Shall write as much as possible to make up for last week.

Cheerio My darling. Thoughts are forever with you both. Wife & Daughter.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.Y.M

Received photos & one ordinary letter this morning. More than pleased with you both darling. Marguerite looks wonderful. You appealing as ever to me.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Thursday 30th Sept 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Only letter received to-day was from Beat. Should be some here from you Pen. The last air mail no.71 was posted on the twelfth. Got it when I returned from leave. Had the photos & an ordinary letter, so cannot expect any more. It's about 7.0pm now, dark & I am doing this by candle light. Had a look at the new photo before I started. Looks better each time. Now the nights get dark earlier its very dull here. Wasn't to bad while it was light. Afraid I haven't any interesting news darling. Still expecting to go somewhere sometime. Mail getting behind a bit lately, maybe there is something about to happen.

Egerton just come in with a bad cold, took a couple of aspirins & gone to bed. Did I ever tell you he's a Captain now, think I did while we were at Sousse. I am the same as you darling, writing every day. It takes longer to think of something interesting. But I like to write if its only to be closer to you. Brings you nearer, think I mentioned it before. The small things that interest now, ought to make us very contented when we get home.

The battalion has published a circular of an item taken from the Western Mail. The Welsh people are dissatisfied with publicity they have been given for there work in France & Tunisia. Says the Welsh Guards have hardly been mentioned. The Welsh MPs brought it up in Parliament. Bit more about it, but that's all that's worth writing. Even that won't be of much interest, just something to write while I think of any other news, which I haven't done, so will close till to-morrow My Darling.

Saturday 2nd October

Good-morning darling, occupied nearly all day yesterday. Received air mail 72, it had been hanging about here for a couple of days. Needless to say, I had a few words for the post corporal. The green envelope with the P. Orders took a long time to arrive. Think you know where we are now Pen. Expecting a move anytime. That's twice I've referred to that. That was a lucky chap who went to Iceland. And now back home. Would be terrific for us darling. Expect we should still be a little shy, when we meet. But I'm going to try & put it over proper. Pick you up & carry you down the platform. Take a chance on whether you wouldn't like it. The war is good for us, but it seems that victory or the end of the war. Doesn't matter much to me. Is just round the corner& we cannot grasp it.

See you still don't think the way your hair is done on the photo suits you. Well I do Pen, thought the same when we were at Foxes Bridge. Things are terribly quiet here at present. Saturday morning & nothing much to look forward to. Could be worse though. Better than watching the sky & dashing into trenches. Also getting under ground sheets for a smoke & umpteen other items like that. To think Marguerite will soon be talking. Pity about the paddies Pen. But I expect you will know when to be firm with her. Not so easy to be strict, when its required. Expect I shall excuse her a good many things. Often regret that was a bit annoyed with her on my last night at Lydney. Because she kept crying. Evidently there was something wrong that irritated her. By her having to go to the hospital for observation. Think we could have managed a couple of days together before I come away darling. But the thoughts of having to go through another parting, also we never knew when we were due to get going. So I don't think we were to know it would be OK. Bet I lose no chances of arranging it for us when its possible. Get my feet on the shores of England. The arrangements had better be good, or I'll make my own.

There's three or four chaps out of our battalion who have done a nip out here. But its next to impossible for them to get out of Africa. I've seen them once or twice, there only staying at the nearest biggest town. Wishing they hadn't done it.

Close now darling. Your closing words I like a lot.

Cheerio darling & Marguerite. Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.Y.M



Sousse Railway Station
October 2009



Sousse Beach
October 2009

October 1943

7-10-43

"We get pretty well of rain now, but it's nothing. We are perfectly dry in our tent. Spend a lot of time playing cards. Had an open air cinema show on Monday. "Invisible Agent."

15-10-43

"Just thought of a small item. The Arabs have been pinching a lot of our kit about here. They sent a patrol out one night. Caught one, not actually caught him. They let him have a couple of rounds as he was running away. That hasn't put them off, still stuff missing now & again."

26-10-43

"I will venture to give my opinion. About the next August it should finish with Germany. That's from the military point of view, But diplomacy could finish it even by Christmas. When they can drop more bombs on the Balkans. It's a dead cert they will do the same as Italy."

Its inclined to be silly to try & forecast the end. But candidly darling when I said August I thought I was allowing plenty of time. Remember when I told the old man they wouldn't invade England. Germany had more to gain out this way. Hope I have a bit of luck, & right again."



October 2009



1943

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Friday 5th Oct 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Not a very pleasant day, raining pretty well. Sounds alright dropping on the tent. Like English weather, not quite so cold. Although we get into bed when not doing much, its the warmest place. We are now being issued with one free air mail per week & one we have to pay for. But we get a buckshe now & then. Better if you get a free one from that end.....

.....section missing, cut with scissors, possibly censored.....

.....Betty Grable in "Footlight Serenade". How's the orange position darling. We got plenty now, nearly green but they are very sweet. When I come home I will bring some specials, to make up for lost time. Bet we won't be long seeing them off. Roll on.

Started playing that game I mentioned sometime ago think it was while we were at Singleton. (*possibly Ross on Wye*) Called housy housy , only game or gambling officially allowed in the army. Cards are played out here or anywhere. Not so much notice taken out here. I won 100 francs, generally pretty lucky & its quite exciting. Don't think we shall have enough visitors at home to be able to play it. Unless we have about ten in family & invite five or ten more. Sounds rather frightening, but don't let it worry you Pen.

Hear talk of a lot of mail in, I'm on my toes waiting for it. Brave the rain & go up to the post bunk after this. But someone might bring it down beforehand. How's Mr & Mrs Thomas Junr, not wrote that letter yet. How's my chances of being at the next wedding. There's Fred, never can tell. Sue & Bill, sorry I mean Son. If they don't rush it I might have a sporting chance. Think that's all who is nearest to us. Except Mam, should like to see her meet someone for company. If she wants to, but it's very doubtful. But don't say I said so. He would have to be a superman to come up to Mother's expectations. Was going to say I'm not home yet. But I hope you won't ever be on the list darling. My chances are as good as any soldier in England. While most of them still have a campaign to go through. Looks like it anyway, but you never know. A miracle could happen & the war finish. But that's to much to expect. By the way.....

.....section missing, cut with scissors, possibly censored.....

..... I get a bit of pleasure in the thought that we have been out nearly twelve months towards it. Which is better that being in England , with it still to come. Give Marguerite a kiss from me.

All the best to you both

Cheerio darling. Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.Y.M

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

7th Oct 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Received letters 74 & 75 leaves 73 to come. Credit letters darling, think you are like myself now. Putting as much meaning in your letters as possible. I cannot think of words sufficient to express my thoughts for you. I know it must seem silly to other people. But other people are not concerned. So what we write to each other, is no others business. Can assure you darling, I mean more than I write.

Glad you enjoyed your week at Mrs Hunts. I admire Eileen's interest in Marguerite. Not sure how to spell her name. By your letter it's Eileen. When I was delivering at Mrs Hunt's, never thought my daughter would be running around the counter. Wish we had some definite ideas of coming home. Still a possible chance we shall get a bit of leave at home before we go again. No one knows, only say that because of the military situation. They might have totally different ideas.

We get pretty well of rain now, but it's nothing. We are perfectly dry in our tent. Spend a lot of time playing cards. Had an open air cinema show on Monday. "Invisible Agent". I had seen it in England. But I enjoyed it again. Don't know if you've seen it darling, its a good show. The letter I sent mentioning the picnic & sports took a long time to arrive. The mail is slipping again. Air mail isn't to bad. But ordinary letters, parcels & papers very poor. Not so much the letters, because the photos arrive quite good time. Parcels & papers very bad. The last date of papers received was about August 10th & 12th. Supplies to Italy probably the cause of it. Guess I have a perfect photo of Marguerite if that's how she looks now. Once again, more than pleased with you both darling.

Egerton hasn't altered much since he was made up. Like myself mad to get home. He was going on a stunt last night. Said thank God this isn't the real thing. By the way the stunt was cancelled after they had been out a couple of hours. Rain stopped play.

Trust you have looked after your cold darling & its better. If you developed one after, see you wasn't sure. Did you manage to get the bed in the other room alright, expect you've got a bit more room there now. Mrs Hunt was very helpful with food problem Pen. Our food is still very good. Plenty of fresh meat.

10.30am now, tea just going. They rattle inside an empty shell case. Makes a good gong or whatever its called. Think I'll go & get mine write a bit better over a cup of char. Not a bad drop of tea, have to use some of our own sugar though. That place in London where we stopped. Will be alright to enable your mother to stay in London. I should have wrote for a free pass for you could have went if you wanted to. Ought to be some system for you to be able to get your own. Takes so long for me to sign them. Could change your mind a dozen times, by the time it was fixed up. Think I'll leave the rest to see if mail arrives before I post.

Nothing doing Pen, better luck to-morrow. Nearly tea time 4.0pm.

The wireless we have up at the canteen is out of order. Unless its fixed for to-night, we've had it. Forgetting though, there's some talk of a concert or cinema show. I prefer the latter. Even though we have to sit on the ground. That's about all I can think of darling. So will close & start another later.

Cheerio Pen all my love to you both. God bless you, roll on the day. Your ever loving husband.
Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.Y.M

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

14th Oct 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

A few lines in anticipation of some mail from you to-morrow or next day. Just back from a open air cinema show. Was very good, enjoy them better than the concerts. Had three pictures cannot remember the titles. Seen them before somewhere, but it was so long ago, I couldn't remember what was coming. That was a very exciting evening for us & there isn't anything else to write about in that respect. So will have to think up some other subject. We get pretty startling news of the war these days. But I expect I am to impatient for it to finish. Supper is nearly ready Pen, carry on to-morrow. Good-night Pen & Marguerite.

15th October

Hullo darling, only mail received was "Observer" John Bull, People. They were dated Aug 22 so you can tell our newspapers are a bit late. Arm is better, suppose to wear a sling, but only put it on when there's a parade about I don't want to go on. Still very dull here, never bother to go to that town near us. Hardly worth it, there's nothing much there. About to have some bread, cheese, onion & a bottle of beer. Only want to pretend we are somewhere other than North Africa. Continue tomorrow darling.

Saturday evening. Try not to bore you darling. But its not a very interesting evening, training most of the day & confined to our tent. You are probably finding it a bit dull yourself, but Marguerite is a big help. E's birthday on the 19th. We shall be on a stunt, he's promised to get some champagne to take with us. So that we can celebrate it. Think you can send these Xmas cards Pen. Seems pretty certain now. Doing a bit better to-day received a "People" etc dated Sept 8th service is improving. Had an heartbreaking job to-day, tried to put a small patch in my K.D shorts. I got there somehow, but it doesn't look to good. It will last till we get battle dress. Game of solo whist just starting, continue later darling.

Sunday 11.0am

Finish sling now darling, guess vaccination is OK now. Lovely this morning, like English weather. Nice walk to the Broad Oak & back would be just right. Have to finish this to-day Pen won't be able to write the next couple of days. The stunt is on for 3 days. This 9.30pm in evening now Pen. After a very quiet day again.

See in the "People" that Berlin radio reported it was our division that landed in Italy. Our Fred might have seen it, in any case darling they were wrong. Don't think it caused any worry over there. Just mentioned it in case

Got a chap here who draws Christmas cards on airgraph forms, he's promised to o me a couple. Not looking forward to Christmas here Pen. About time they packed this game in & lets get home. Lot of talk in the papers about demobilisation lately, roll on when it's an actual fact I know how you long for it darling as much as myself.

Should get an account of the wedding in your next letter. Lucky people, or anyone who are together in England. We get to much time to think these days. You would be surprised how I recall some of the things & times we had in England. Must admit it's not good for us, tends to make us miserable. Not so much miserable, think it's something else. Get irritable quick, same sort of thing you use to get at Foxes Bridge. Or at least that's what your mother said. But in my eyes, I could never really believe it.

Just thought of a small item. The Arabs have been pinching a lot of our kit about here. They sent a patrol out one night. Caught one, not actually caught him. They let him have a couple of rounds as he was running away. That hasn't put them off, still stuff missing now & again. Well my darling, this is about the worst letter I've wrote. I don't see anything in to cheer you. But my thoughts are forever with you & baby. None can wish to get home soon as possible as I do. Not only to get home but to be with you. So will close for now darling. Feeling better after I have written to you

All my love to you both.

Your ever loving husband. Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D.Y.M



Sidi Ayed
October 2009



En Route
October 2009

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Tuesday 26th Oct 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Received three very welcome letters to-day Pen & the Daily Mails yesterday. First was written just before the wedding, the last two when you had arrived at Mayfair. Good news about Marguerite darling, hope the teeth will make her look better still. That was as good a compliment anyone could pay Pen. To want a daughter like ours.

Didn't know that Reg was married. I regretted the fact I wasn't with you at the wedding. We could have made it more enjoyable Pen. I kind of pictured you on your own & also one or two with there eyes on you. Sue will think she is unlucky. Making room for others, but maybe she won't want it when its her turn. Hope I have some snaps to look forward to. Things are still hellish quiet here. The war is still going well, but its impossible to go as quick as I want it.

Had a very cheerful also optimistic letter from Lydney to-day. Mam thinks I ought to get another job. Not on the roads late at night. She suggests a caretakers job. Not a bad idea, but it would have to be an hotel or a pub. British Legion Club wouldn't be so bad, have to confer with you, if there's any about. I realize how you feel about the war darling. But there's one thing certain, they will never get me into another. If I get my feet on England again. They've had it, already had more of my time than I can spare.

I will venture to give my opinion. About the next August it should finish with Germany. That's from the military point of view, But diplomacy could finish it even by Christmas. When they can drop more bombs on the Balkans. It's a dead cert they will do the same as Italy. Its inclined to be silly to try & forecast the end. But candidly darling when I said August I thought I was allowing plenty of time. Remember when I told the old man they wouldn't invade England. Germany had more to gain out this way. Hope I have a bit of luck, & right again.

The wireless at Lydney is broke down, seems as if it's too big a job for Fred. Glad to read you get something out of our old set. Been thinking, Bill & his wife will be a bit of company for you darling. Try & persuade them to have a week with you & Marguerite now & then. Hear that one or two more chaps I know at Lydney are due for abroad. They have my sympathy, worst part of it is starting off. Just about Christmas time to. Soon be here darling, hope you will have a reasonable time.

No signs of any cards about yet that I can send. I hear pipes are very scarce in England Pen. Don't worry about a new one, my old one will do if you can find it. Do you manage to keep warm enough in the rooms. Would like to be able to fetch the coal up. Expect Marguerite will be wanting a push chair. If so is the money position alright Pen. The one letter I had was posted at Dursley. Begin to wonder if you had gone there for a visit. The letters telling me all about hadn't arrived. But Son must have posted it. That's about all I can think of Pen. Roll on time, its bound to change sometime. Keep your chin up darling, be seeing you.

Give Marguerite a big kiss from me. Cheerio darling. All my love to you both.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.Y.M

(2)
 which legion club wouldn't be so bad.
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 & then. Hear that one or two more chap's

Tuesday 26th Oct. 1943

John Aylmer Esq 77/1
 Sgt Coy 3rd Battalion
 Welsh Guards
 B.N.A.F

My Darling Wife & Daughter

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 We could have made it more enjoyable Pen.
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I know at Sydney are due for abroad.
 They have my sympathy, worst part of it
 is starting off just about Christmas time
 to. Soon be home darling, hope you will
 have a reasonable time. No sign of any
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 Don't worry about a new one, my old one
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 have posted it. That's about all I can
 think of Pen. Roll on the time, it's
 bound to change sometime. Keep your
 chin up darling, be seeing you. I've
 Marguerite & Reg here from me. Cheers
 Darling. All my love to you both
 your ever loving husband
 I.T.A.L.Y.D.X XXXXXXXX
 Post XXXXXXXX

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
 THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
 BY ORDINARY MAIL



MRS A. BEIZLEY

MAYFAIR

NEWHAM-ON-SEVERN

GLoucestershire
 ENGLAND



November 1943

6-11-43

"Was thinking the other day. I missed the chance of getting Llewellyn Lloyds signature. Someone might be interested. I didn't think much of him. To late now though, he's gone as a military correspondent to the Brigade of Guards. Would have been interesting to compare it with his book. Did not hear they had a mock invasion of England Pen. But I see we had a full scale rehearsal of invasion craft for Germany. Which was very successful. Bet most of them was glad, it turned out that way."

7-11-43

"Best bit of news, is the Russians taking Kiev. Here keeping it up fine. We have reason to be optimistic regarding the end of the war darling. Just back from the canteen, we can now get a cup of Ovaltine & either a sausage roll or jam tart. Only snag is no sugar in the Ovaltine. Of course made with water. No frills on what you get in the army."

8-11-43

"Going on leave Thursday for four days Pen. The place where Mam thought we were, when we were at Tunis & Sousse. Not much there as I said before. Unless they get something since I was there last. Want to try & send you something Pen, if its only dates & figs or whatever is going."

13-11-43

"Thursday our company had a dinner. Very good time, pork, beef, roast potatoes, stuffed melon, pastries & fruit etc. Bought a couple of pigs to provide the pork. Plenty of beer & wine, altogether we had a good time.

Came to the rest camp yesterday morning, or better described by the mud camp. Just outside Constantine. We were entertained by a French Military band last night. They like there drums & trumpets blaring out, but it wasn't o bad. And here we are darling, Saturday morning. Just had breakfast in bed, may go to a picture to-night, but not if it continues to rain."

21-11-43

"Like yesterday its being a crime to chop trees down. We had got one just chopped enough so that all we had to do was push it. Where it was cut was covered over. My officer & another come to have a warm by the fire. Cleared off, then come back for another warm. They passed a remark that they were sure a tree was there. Probably knew that we had seen it off.

Nice bit of news just now, sixteen bags of mail arrived. Should be a few of your parcels amongst that lot. Looking forward to my pipe. Got Llewellyn Lloyds new book here. Read it just now, not so keen now. Previous readers don't think much of it. Have been watching the births etc column in the Observer when it comes."

28-11-43

"Don't like this place, too regimental. Glad to get back to the battalion. E doesn't like it & is sure to hurry the job on, so that he can get away. Got battle dress now, its a different kind. Sort of a green mixture in it, looks smart to. While we are here, we have to blanco our belts & gaiters white."

29-11-43

"E is here to form a carrier wing. Not a bad place, but too regimental like all these places. Think I mentioned that I had received six packets of flints for petrol lighters. They aren't any good to me, so I sold them ten francs a time, about ten minutes ago."

(2)
 of getting Lowell's signature someone might be interested. I didn't think much of him. Too late now though, he's gone as a military correspondent to the Brigade of Guards. Would have been interesting to compare it with his book. Did not see they had a mock invasion of England Pen. But I see we had a full scale rehearsal of invasion craft for Germany. Which was very successful. Not most of them was glad, it turned out that way. With but many happy returns of the day for me. Hope Marguerite mother enjoyed the ten fruit. And her daddy will soon be home to have some. They do say you should never work your life away. But I'll never miss my stay in North Africa. The old tea gong will be going just now. Will continue after darling. Jam - cheese for tea, not very appetizing. Remember the beans on toast we use to like

Eden of Beizsley 7741
 Spt Coy. 3rd Bn
 Welsh Guards
 B.N.A.F.
 Saturday afternoon
 6th Oct. 1943
 Nov.
 My Own Darling Wife - Daughter
 just received one of your mails, sent on the 26th Oct. Got to think twice which month this is. Spent most of the afternoon reading, Observer, People etc. till received your air mail. That ten page letter our love must be getting stronger. Looking forward to that your ever burning Pen, must be me calling for you. Still got my moustache, shall have to keep it now, for you to have a look at. Note I can spell same, by looking at the word in your letter. Give you credit for one big decision Pen. For making it quick anyway. Think it was the same day my calling up papers arrived. So far its turned out excellent, except for the Army. But soon I hope the pleasure will be ours again, none the worse for the delay was thinking the other day. I missed the chance

(3)
 although we get more beans than we want. I could enjoy sharing a tin with you darling. Toast & custard is about the only thing we haven't had out here. Will do me good, you will have a competitor for the custard when I get home. Saturday evening Pen, I am getting a quiet life now. But not the work I want. Yes we get tobacco very cheap Pen. But as I mention before, I shall enjoy your best. Don't send any more though, its not a profitable fact. It's Marguerite still improving in her talking. Rather tickled that she knows when you say shut the door. Mam says how intelligent she is. Shall be hearing shortly what Mary's tissues out to be. See her husband was lucky enough to be able to stay. Which must be a help. There was chap here in Grenadier whose wife wouldn't have an operation unless he was there. He was granted leave & flown home. Have to close darling my thoughts are always with you. All my love to you both your ever loving
 P.T.A.L.V.D.X.X.X - Husband Beizsley

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL

LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD
 WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

MRS A. BEIZSLEY

MAYFAIR

NEWHAM-ON-SEVERN

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ENGLAND.

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH
 THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

Form W.3022/1

11-4711

Adm. Form W.3022

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Saturday afternoon 6th Nov 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

Just received one of your mails, sent on 26th Oct. Got to think twice which month this is. Spent most of the afternoon reading, "Observer, People" etc, till I received your air mail. That ten page letter, our love must be getting stronger. Looking forward to that your ears burning Pen, must be me calling for you. Still got my moustache, shall have to keep it now, for you to have a look at. Note I can spell your same, by looking at the word in your letter. Give you credit for one big decision Pen. For making it quick anyway. Think it was the same day my calling up papers arrived. So far its turned out excellent, except for the b----- army. But soon I hope the pleasure will be ours again, none the worse for the delay.

Was thinking the other day. I missed the chance of getting Llewellyn Lloyds signature. Someone might be interested. I didn't think much of him. To late now though, he's gone as a military correspondent to the Brigade of Guards. Would have been interesting to compare it with his book. Did not hear they had a mock invasion of England Pen. But I see we had a full scale rehearsal of invasion craft for Germany. Which was very successful. Bet most of them was glad, it turned out that way.

Wish Sue many happy returns of the day for me. Hope Marguerites mother enjoyed the tin fruit. And her daddy will soon be home to have some. They do say you should never wish your life away. But I'll never miss my stay in North Africa. The old tea gong will be going just now. Will continue after darling. Jam & cheese for tea, not very appetising. Remember the beans on toast we use to like although we get more beans than we want. I could enjoy sharing a tin with you darling. Toast & custard is about the only thing we haven't had out here. Will do me good, you will have a competition for the custard when I get home.

Saturday evening Pen

I am getting a quiet life now. But not the sort I want. Yes we get tobacco very cheap Pen. But as I mention before, I shall enjoy yours best. Don't send any more though, it's not a profitable fad. Is Marguerite still improving in her talking. Rather tickled that she knows when you say shut the door. Mam says how intelligent she is. Shall be hearing shortly what Mary's turns out to be. See her husband was lucky enough to be able to stay. Which must be a help. There was a chap here in Grenadiers whose wife wouldn't have an operation unless he was there. He was granted leave & flown home. Have to close darling

All my love to you both.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.Y.M

(2)
 of getting Staveland Lloyd's signature. Someone might be interested. I didn't think much of him. To late now though, he's gone as a military correspondent to the Brigade of Guards. Would have been interesting to compare it with his book. Did not see they had a mock invasion of England Pen. But I see we had a full scale rehearsal of invasion craft for Germany. Which was very successful. Not most of them was glad, it turned out that way. Wish her many happy returns of the day for me. Hope Marquenie mother enjoyed the ten fruit. And her daddy will soon be home to have some. They do say you should never work your life away. But I'll never miss my stay in North Africa. The old tea going well be going just now. Will continue after darling. Jam - cheese for tea, not very appetizing. Remember the beans on toast we use to like

Saturday afternoon
 6th Oct. 1943
 now.

Gdn of Beizsley 7741
 Spt Coy. 3rd Bn
 Welsh Guards
 B.N.A.F

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter just received one of your mails, sent on the 26th Oct. Got to think twice which month this is. Spent most of the afternoon reading, Observer, People etc, till received your air mail. That ten page letter our love must be getting stronger. Looking forward to that your ever burning Pen, must be me calling for you. Still got my moustache, shall have to keep it now, for you to have a look at. Note I can spell same, by looking at the word in your letter. Give you credit for one big decision Pen. for making it quick anyway. Think it was the same day my calling up papers arrived. So far its turned out excellent, except for the b-- army. But soon I hope the pleasure will be ours again, none the worse for the delay. Was thinking the other day. I missed the chance

(3)
 although we get more bees than we want. I could enjoy sharing a tin with you darling. Toast - custard is about the only thing we haven't had out here. Will do me good, you will have a competitor for the custard when I get home. Saturday evening Pen, I am getting a quiet life now. But not the sort I want. Yes we get tobacco very cheap Pen. But as I mention before, I shall enjoy yours best. Don't send any more though, its not a profitable fad. I's Marquenie still improving in her talking. Rather tickled that she knows when you say shut the door. Mam says how intelligent she is. Shall be hearing shortly what Mary's time out to be. See her husband was lucky enough to be able stay. Which must be a help. There was chap here in Grenadier whose wife wouldn't have an operation unless he was there. He was granted leave & flown home. Have to close darling. My thoughts are always with you. All my love to you both your ever loving
 T.A.L.V.D.X.X - Husband Pen X.X

BY AIR MAIL AIR MAIL
 LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD
 WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

MRS A. BEIZSLEY
 MAYFAIR
 NEWNHAM-ON-SEVERN
 GLOUCESTERSHIRE
 ENGLAND.

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH
 THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN.

Form W 201/1.

11-4717.

Army Form W 201.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Sunday evening 7.30pm 7th Nov 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

A few lines in a green envelope. Can also return the airgraph. Ordinary mail will take a long time between now & Christmas. Guess it will anyway. Not very lovely again to-day, raining most of the time.

Best bit of news, is the Russians taking Kiev. Here keeping it up fine. We have reason to be optimistic regarding the end of the war darling. Just back from the canteen, we can now get a cup of Ovaltine & either a sausage roll or jam tart. Only snag is no sugar in the Ovaltine. Of course made with water. No frills on what you get in the army.

Expecting four days leave this week again. Not fussy about going. But I believe you get a cup of tea in bed in the mornings. Really only for a rest, its called rest Camp. But I get more than my share of that.

E no trouble these days, specially since the campaign. He's company commander for a week or two. He is also doing well but wants to get a rift on & be a Brigadier or General. To young for that, wants a chap about forty for them jobs. The latest rumour or scoop is that we are here till April. Nothing to go by though Pen.

We have a company dinner on Thursday. Only trouble is getting enough tent space. But extra to eat & a bottle of beer. As much Muscatel you want but I can't stick wine. Still we shall have a few songs, "Moonlight", Coming Round the Mountain is two certainties. I'm pretty good while there's plenty of others singing. Unless Marguerite gets it from you Pen, afraid she won't be a singer. Only when there's no one about.

Took me about ten minutes to write to here, must be improving. Someone just suggested a game of solo, not a bad idea. Might win a bit, it will make something to write home about. But you cannot win or loose much at that game. Continue later darling, try & make six pages. One day I will shake you darling & write twenty.

Monday 8th Nov

Just received your air mail posted 30th Oct Pen. Will reply to that by air mail. Stormy with a few spells of sunshine today. E received a letter from the place we use to stay at Singleton. Capt Cochrane Barrett, his son was an officer in the Scotch Guards. Prisoner of war in Italy but they haven't heard from him yet. Commented on the Christmas pudding I helped to mix. Said they turned out marvellous, they couldn't help turning out alright with what they put in them. Hope that we can mix ours next Christmas Pen.

News seem good again, the Russians seem to be causing Jerry to run faster than they can keep up. Divisional H. Q. here, seem to think that when we land in France the Germans will let us through. In preference to letting the Russians get there first.

Going on leave Thursday for four days Pen. The place where Mam thought we were, when we were at Tunis & Sousse. Not much there as I said before. Unless they get something since I was there last. Want to try & send you something Pen, if its only dates & figs or whatever is going. Think I will post this & save a bit for an air mail, I will start to-night.

Look after yourself darling, be seeing you

All my love to you & Marguerite.

Your ever loving husband. Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Saturday 10.0am 13th Nov 1943

My Own Darling Wife & Daughter

It will be a work of art to write this letter anything like. On our four days leave, rained all the time we have been here. Luckily I got a dry spot in the tent. Outside it is just a sea of mud. These air mails are the same as green envelopes. The ones with a diamond, we can seal down. Only liable for censorship at the base. Well darling, the last couple of days I have pretty well to write about.

Thursday our company had a dinner. Very good time, pork, beef, roast potatoes, stuffed melon, pastries & fruit etc. Bought a couple of pigs to provide the pork. Plenty of beer & wine, altogether we had a good time.

Came to the rest camp yesterday morning, or better described by the mud camp. Just outside Constantine. We were entertained by a French Military band last night. They like there drums & trumpets blaring out, but it wasn't o bad. And here we are darling, Saturday morning. Just had breakfast in bed, may go to a picture to-night, but not if it continues to rain.

Received your air mail before I left camp. Got here in seven days. Hope the parcels, have come by the time I return. Hope you enjoyed the couple of days ay Lydney Pen. Ought to be able to go to the pictures now. Marguerite should be alright with Mam. Help out these long evenings.

Don't care for Sues force, they let us down to many times. Mentioned it in my previous letter. But it was censored. Remember when my letter got some extra blue pencil. Doesn't mean much in private life. But when they are first mentioned. You remember it & hold it against them. But we are a long way from the war at present. The weather is holding up any big scale operations. But we are doing alright. Get the spring here, it will hurry it up a bit. Takes us for a spot of married life darling. The sun has just come out, take a long time to-day.

Going back Monday, I'm all for it. Leave with Egerton will be enough for me. Better than this, don't have to do much. Only about ten minutes to square him up. But I don't want to bore you with the leave we get out here. Leave in England is what we want. We had our two minutes silence out here. Expect there was touching scenes in England. Thought I had such a lot to write home about, but I am getting pushed. Have to pack up. Go to the pictures to-night to get an inspiration. Couple of old pictures there. "They drive by night" & "Silver Skates". Both pretty good. Shall enjoy seeing them again, if I have seen them before. Close now darling.

Always thinking of you & Marguerite. Be seeing you.

All my love to you both.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.Y.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Thursday 17th Nov 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Sent that snap to-day. The one we had taken a bit back. Expect it will take some time to get there. Hope you get it anyway, will do for the collection. Must be prepared for some delay in the mail till Christmas is over. Parcel & newspapers very late this time. Expect they will be here with a rush just now.

Well darling its about 8.0pm & I am in bed. So we are doing nothing to get excited about. A frost this morning, so it will be a bit colder to get out of it. 7.15am is the time we generally get up, not to early. Have to continue to-morrow darling, cannot think of anything interesting. Good night Pen & Marguerite.

Friday 18th Nov.

Hullo darling a few lines of something. No mail about yet, pleasure still to come. Hope to have some more photos in the near future. Officer is going to try & get a photographer to come & take the platoon. Talking of it to-night anyway. Most of our time is taken up these days chopping & digging up stumps of trees, to keep a fire going. About 6.30pm now, got a bottle of beer, but I think I'll save it for some other time. Bit colder these days.

Had yours & Marguerites photos out just now. Believe you look a lot younger in the one with Marguerite. Got a brigade of Guards magazine here. See Davidson is on the list of casualties, I always put a d in his name, but I see its not right. Well darling afraid I will have to continue later. Might think of something.

8.0pm

Just been reading an article on demobilisation. Think my chances are very good for getting out first when it comes. Being married & a daughter & the possibility of raising the birth rate. Pending agreement of course between us. Not so bad for the amount of service & a job to go back to. So roll on darling, to cold to get my knees in the air. Not very sun burnt now, to much clothes on for that. Getting on quietly Pen, shall think of something else just now. Russians doing well still, but rain & snow is holding things up in Italy.

Expect to hear any time what Marg has got. Think it's sometime this month, as far as I can remember its possible to tell within a month. Doubt if they will get to Lydney for Christmas. If they bring whatever it is to Lydney, Mam will begin to wonder how many more. Don't suppose she will take to there's like Marguerite & Robert. Trying hard to think of something to write. It just won't come, so will close darling. Ready to post to-morrow. If anything turns up will add it.

All my love to you & baby. Cheerio Darling.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Sunday 2.0pm 21st Nov 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Sunday afternoon again, lucky one. Received two air mails & an ordinary letter from you, air mail from Lydney. Your contribution was good Pen, plenty to read & interesting. Marguerites antics always gets me, she must be wonderful company now. Mam always mentions some little thing that must be amusing to see. Last one was when she was getting an apple pudding out of the saucepan. And you asking her to fetch her shoes. Bet I should see a difference even now.

Weather is OK. To-day, but cold in the mornings & at night but its nice now. Suppose you must be nearly 24 Pen, but I wasn't sure. Still think of you as 22 & very unlucky to be away from you so long. Scene will change again presently. Last night we were sat around a camp fire making oxo. Started off with a bottle of beer, but we were soon out of that. Besides eating a few dates. To-night will be the same. I'm off again starting to grumble. It could be worse mustn't forget that. Only when I start to think about you & what it could be. Get some fun now & then,

Like yesterday its being a crime to chop trees down. We had got one just chopped enough so that all we had to do was push it. Where it was cut was covered over. My officer & another come to have a warm by the fire. Cleared off, then come back for another warm. They passed a remark that they were sure a tree was there. Probably knew that we had seen it off.

Nice bit of news just now, sixteen bags of mail arrived. Should be a few of your parcels amongst that lot. Looking forward to my pipe. Got Llewellyn Lloyds new book here. Read it just now, not so keen now. Previous readers don't think much of it. Have been watching the births etc column in the Observer when it comes. Surprising the number of couples who give there daughters the name of Ann. Also saw an item about someone from Foxes Bridge. Wondered if I knew them, the paper was a month old so its a bit back. A woman admitted to the Dilke Hospital. Some query about her death or injury, forgot which it was. Griffiths was her name, not anyone I know of. Suppose there is quite a few that I don't know up there.

See you don't think you will stay up there for Christmas. Hope you will go to Lydney. Might be quiet there, but it would be better than being by yourself. Glad you foresaw any difficulty about sleeping accommodation at Foxes Bridge that might occur. Don't want to take any chances with Marguerite, specially this cold weather. Damn good job when we get on with our own arrangements. You don't think the snap of you is worth sending Pen. Cannot think that because all the photos & snaps I have of you couldn't be better. The one I sent of five of us just after a swim. Wasn't so good, didn't have a chance to smarten up a bit. Three of us in the middle, came out here from the beginning. Two on the outsides arrived after the campaign had finished. So its been one good holiday to them. The one in the beret, remember I told you his wife had a baby while he was out here.

Well darling have to close now. Will post this, then start another to-morrow. May be able to tell you I have received parcels.

All my love to you both. Cheerio Darling.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Sunday 28th Nov 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Very sorry I haven't been able to write the last couple of days. E has come to another place for about a fortnight. To form a carrier wing at a training school. Should only take about a fortnight. Not worth changing the address, my mail comes the following day from the battalion.

Received three ordinary letters & your Christmas card Pen. Forced to write an ordinary letter till I can get either air mail forms or airgraph. Have a parcel ready to send, a few cigs & a couple of souvenirs I want to keep. Expect I will put this pen in as well. Still got the green one that I brought out. Send Fred most of the cigs, keep some for yourselves. They are the most profitable things to send home.

Pleased with your ordinary letters darling. Means a lot to read about Marguerite. How you both spend your time, must be more than amusing to see her at those little capers. Bit of luck, just had a couple of air mail forms given me. Off a chap who doesn't send all his. Will carry on with this, start one of them later. Your parcel haven't arrived yet, but they are still coming in around about the date you sent them.

Don't like this place, too regimental. Glad to get back to the battalion. E doesn't like it & is sure to hurry the job on, so that he can get away. Got battle dress now, its a different kind. Sort of a green mixture in it, looks smart to. While we are here, we have to blanco our belts & gaiters white. That also looks OK. More suitable for coming home in. Excuse writing darling, the light is lower than from where I am writing. Makes it a bit awkward. See we are increasing our raids on Germany specially Berlin. They won't stand that for long. Sooner the better, doesn't do to be to optimistic though. But I cannot see that it will be long.

E thinks the same, think he is anxious to get back to Penny. Expect you remember I told you about her. Received a Comforts Fund letter to-day. Sent half a dozen packets of flints, not much good to me. Also another 200 cigs on the way for Christmas. There's 200 missing as yet, might turn up later. Before we came away from the battalion. They were making arrangements for Christmas before we left. We won't do so bad, but there is always main person missing. But I guess it could be worse darling. The prospects are very good, that's worth a bit.

Another thing I forgot if the parcel arrives OK. The gadget in a case is for testing batteries. Be able to show how much deuce is left in the battery. Did think of sending my alarm clock, but its a bit big. Shall have to bring this to a close darling. Or I won't have nothing to put in the air mail. If it arrives before Christmas Pen.

All the best for you & Marguerite & better prospects for us in the new year. Preferably before our daughters birthday.

Cheerio My Darling & Marguerite

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

P.S. Badge in wallet when parcel arrives.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Monday 29th Nov 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

This air mail is knocked about a bit, its one I had given me. Hope it arrives so that you will be able to read it. Got the parcel ready & signed but forgot to put the fountain pen in. Bet you will think I haven't much to do. If I have time to sew a parcel up like I've done this one. Should get there alright, took me all the morning to do it.

Been nice & warm here to-day, just going off a bit cooler. Time is 5.15pm tea time here. Here the bugle going just now. They got one here, also the bagpipes. Different kind of ink again. Put most of the news in a green envelope darling. That will be late coming. So will mention that we are at training school for a fortnight, or there abouts.

E is here to form a carrier wing. Not a bad place, but too regimental like all these places. Think I mentioned that I had received six packets of flints for petrol lighters. They aren't any good to me, so I sold them ten francs a time, about ten minutes ago. Please excuse this very untidy letter darling. But the form is so battered about, that I haven't much interest in keeping it tidy.

Warmer again to-day, being so high above sea level , makes it colder where the battalion is. Alongside the Med here but I haven't tried bathing. Don't see anyone else going. N.A.A.F.I. issue to-day, should get some air mail forms. Cannot make it out, why your parcel hasn't arrived. Pipes are scarce out here, maybe someone has taken a fancy to it. The cigarettes due to me from Lydney Comforts Fund still deficient. They must know I have plenty. Alright if it's a deserving case who gets these lost parcels. More often than not its someone with a cushy job at the base. Taking advantage it's easy enough there's no check on them.

Last day of this month to-morrow. Christmas will be here & gone, then it will be nearly twelve months we have been here. Prospects are better anyway darling. Close now darling, start another later. Look after yourself darling, that looks comical. Tell you this letter is doomed. Hope for the best Pen. Happy Christmas my thoughts will never leave you.

Cheerio Pen & Marguerite.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

December 1943

12-12-43

"Hullo Pen, just got settled down in the new place for a week. Miles from anywhere as per usual. But its better away from the school or training camp they call it. Just a carrier platoon, which is about 25 men. E in charge so it's very cushy. Best to be away from all the regimental stuff. Its a mixed lot he is learning. Some from Coldstreams, Grenadiers, Scots & Irish & one or two Welsh. All strangers tome but it doesn't make much difference."

19-11-43

"We are going to the battalion on Thursday till Tuesday to join in the celebration over Christmas. Then back here for a week or two before we rejoin the battalion for good. Should be a good do, they have allowed for 2lbs of pork per man & plenty of pastries & wine. We shall have a good time darling. As far as eating & drinking is concerned. Think they are going to rig up a few side shows, revolver shooting etc. But we shall miss the most important being together. Hope for the best next Christmas."

Guess next year will hold some important changes. We wear our Africa Star ribbon now not over struck with the colour to represent sands, with a red & blue stripes in it."

29-12-43

"Christmas is over Pen. Everyone at the Battalion had more than they wanted. Dinner was as good as it was possible to be. Turkey, Pork etc, nuts & plenty of beer & whiskey. Must admit I had more than was good for me. Never expected to see so much beer & whiskey. Never had a drop of wine. Altogether darling, I think I had to good a time."

"We are back at this training school for a week or so, the 8th Jan we go back to the battalion. We aren't here to learn anything Pen. E is here to pass out carrier drivers. But you will have a job to follow exactly where we are Pen. But we shall be back at the battalion on the 8th."

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Saturday 4th December 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Saturday afternoon again. Feeling a bit browned off, not unusual. This mail will be held, to be delivered at Christmas. So I shall try to write something that will suit for that time. Lets imagine its Christmas Day darling. I can say for certain what I shall be doing. Won't get up till about eight, rest part of the day will be routine, till the evening. Then we shall have a good dinner & as much wine as we want.. My mind will always be with you & baby. So I will probably be in bed by nine thirty. Unless someone starts a card school. That is most likely to be the best entertainment . And I will be thinking of how our Christmas together would be like. Next year should be the best, when Marguerite will understand a bit what its all about. Oh, hear comes someone for a game of cards already. Will have a go anyway, I am on the right side. Continue later darling.

Sunday 5th Dec

Hullo Pen, spent the rest of yesterday playing cards. Nothing in it by the time I had finished. Sunday morning now, nice at present. Better tell you how we spent Saturday evening. After tea we went straight to the Y.M.C.A. That was about 5.0pm. Queued there till 7.30pm. Got a cup of tea, sandwich, 2 lovely jam turnovers & about twenty tangerines. Ate that, then came straight to our own mess tent. Queued there for another cup of tea & a piece of jam tart. By the time we had done that, it was bed time. Not a very exciting evening, but would have sent me crazy in peace time.

No mail for a week now. Bet there's a lot at the battalion for me. They are keeping it back with Mr Egerton's. To minimise the risk of loosing it. Will be Christmas when you receive this darling. So you can be sure that I've received it by then. War news continue to be good. You can depend that something will happen now that the big three have met. Might even frighten Germany into giving in. Which would be a grand Christmas gift.

There is some of the boys here, getting letter asking the to get silk stockings. General opinion is that we can get them easy. I've never seen any Pen, you can depend on it I should get some for you if there was any. Not around this part anyway. . If I should get a chance, you will get them. Thought I would mention it darling, in case you thought I didn't bother. I know you wouldn't say anything.

Close now darling. Have a good time. Happy Christmas & a better New Year to you & Marguerite.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Wednesday 8th December 1943
10.30am

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Nearly a fortnight without any mail Pen, not so good. Must be a tidy pile at the Bn. For me. Hope you are getting mine alright. Will be most interesting to get all the news at once. Also the snap might have arrived. To early for the parcel to have got there. Getting a s few more together. Looks as if we shall be here more than a fortnight. But I should get my mail before we go back. Sure to be a truck or a D.R come her from the Bn. The officer that Davidson use to look after in England is here. Expect you remember we were talking about him. He missed the draft we come on, because he had yellow jaundice. In the same tent as my of-ficer. Still walks around with head bent, as if he was looking for something.

There is a film to be made here, don't know if we shall be here for it. Rather get back for my mail. Seen one or two pictures her in the camp. The worst was "My Sister Elaine", worst I've seen. "Shadow of Doubt" was a good picture. They are all pictures that was in London when we were there. That's about all the news Pen. Not getting your mail, makes it a bit awkward. Be Christmas by the time this arrives.

Just thought of something to write. Often passes through my mind, little incidents that hap-pened through the campaign. I had decided to wait till I got home, but it will be something to write. Most amusing was after a town had surrendered. Only Italians defending it so you won't be surprised at the surrender. Just got there, when E said come on lets get another car. Off we go looking for a good one. When we come across a beauty? That will do he said, go & get it. But when I got there it was full of Italian Officers. With loads of pips on there shoulders. Didn't know what to do, wether to order them or not. So I went back & told E. He decided to take them to camp. Told me to get in there car & make them follow him. Well if it wasn't for the uniforms you would think they were a lot of old women. Fussing around me, made sure I was comfortable. Offered me a cigarette, which I refused, preferring my own. Nodding there heads just like some women I've seen. That was some of the highest officers in there army. We got the car alright, but couldn't keep it for long. If I've told you about it be-fore Pen, its to bad for me.

Rather a long time ago now, so I might have forgotten. But let me know darling if it's the second time I've mentioned it. Think I'll write a few more incidents in a green envelope. De-cided to write some of them, because as time goes on. We are likely to forget most of the details. Just heard the film that is being made here is called "The Road Home", certainly the road I'm looking for. Bet there's plenty of fighting in it. See about closing now darling. Will write again later.

Kiss for Marguerite from me. Cheerio darling. Be seeing you.

All my love to you both. Your ever loving husband. Bert I.T.A.L.Y.D.

was 'my sister Elaine' worst I've seen. 'Shadow of Doubt' was a good picture. They are all pictures that was in London when we were there. That's about all the news Pen. not getting your mail, makes it a bit awkward. He chortles by the time this arrives. Just thought of something to write. Often passes through my mind little incidents that happened through the campaign. I had decided to wait till I got home, but it will be something to write. Most amusing was after a town had surrendered. Only 3 Italians, depending it so you won't be surprised at the surrender. Just got there, when E. said come on let's get another car, also a better one. Off we go, looking for a good one. When we come across a beasty? That will do he said, go & get it. But when I got there it was full of Italian officers. With loads of pups on their shoulders. Didn't know what to do, wait whether to order them or not. So I went back & told E. He decided to take them to camp. Told me to get in there car & make them follow him. Well if it wasn't for these uniforms you would

Wednesday 8th Dec. 1943
10.30 A.M.

John Atkinson
Sgt Coy. 5th Bn
Welsh Guards
R.N.A.F.

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Nearly a fortnight without any mail Pen, not so good. Must be a tidy pile at the Pen. for me. Hope you are getting mine alright. Will be most interesting to get all the news at once. Also the snap might have arrived. To wait for the parcel to have got there. Getting a few more together looks as if we shall be here more than a fortnight. But I should get my mail before we go back. Sure to be a touch or a D.R. come here from the B.N. The officer that Davidson use to look after in England is here. Expect you remember we were talking about him. He missed the draft we come on, because he had yellow jaundice. In the same tent as my officer. Still walks around with head bent, as if he was looking for something. There is a film to be made here, don't know if we shall be here for it. Rather go back for my mail. Seen one or two pictures here in the camp. The work

think they were a lot of old women fussing around me, made sure I was comfortable. Offered me a cigarette, which I refused, preferring my own. Nodding their heads just like some women I've seen. That was some of the highest officers in their army. We got the car alright, but couldn't keep it for long. If I've told you about it before Pen, it's too bad for me. Rather a long time ago now, so I might have forgotten. But let me know darling if it's the second time I've mentioned it. Think I'll write a few more incidents in a green envelope. Decided to write some of them, because as time goes on. We are likely to forget most of the details. Just heard the film that is being made here is called 'The road home'. Certainly the road I'm looking for. But there's plenty of fighting in it. See about closing now darling. Will write again later. Kiss for Margaret from me. Cheerio Darling. He sends you all my love to you both
your Ever loving Husband
I.T.A.L.V.O. X Bert XXXXXXXX

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.



MRS A. BEIZLEY

MAYFAIR

NEWNHAM-ON-SEVERN

GLoucestershire

ENGLAND

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Saturday 11th December 1943 11.45am

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Just a few lines before lunch time. Off to some other place for a week tomorrow, then back here again. Then back to the Battalion I hope. Won't go back till after Christmas, But we shall go for the Christmas weekend, if aren't sent back permanent before. Shall get my mail next Saturday for sure. Looking forward to it, seems a long time since I heard from you. Haven't started that green envelope yet, that I had decided to write. Think sometimes that it won't be interesting enough. Remember what we use to think of the old soldiers of the last war. Use to get tired of hearing them always on about it. Don't want anyone to start thinking that way about me. Specially you Pen. Soon be the New Year, will be able to start the diary Beat sent me. But don't want it to get to exciting. Would like to write in it on the day we meet again darling. Excuse the mistakes, my mind must be on my lunch, continue later darling.

Sunday 12th Dec

Hullo Pen, just got settled down in the new place for a week. Miles from anywhere as per usual. But its better away from the school or training camp they call it. Just a carrier platoon, which is about 25 men. E in charge so it's very cushy. Best to be away from all the regimental stuff. Its a mixed lot he is learning. Some from Coldstreams, Grenadiers, Scots & Irish & one or two Welsh. All strangers tome but it doesn't make much difference.

Could do with all the mail I got coming to me. Plenty of time to read it & reply darling. Hope you find some of this interesting darling. News is so scarce, I'm likely to start writing uninteresting stuff.

The film I mention before is being made here. Think I told you the wrong title Pen. The last I heard was that it's to be called "The Way Ahead". Due to be shown in London after Christmas. Which would be about six months to a year before it gets around Gloucester way.

Time goes pretty quick darling, Xmas is almost here. Sincerely hope I shall be with you early as possible in the New Year. Miracles sometimes happen, this routine life will change sooner or later. Though I've had about as much camping as I want. A week or two with you & baby would be alright. Apart from that, I never want to see a tent again. See about closing Pen. Please forgive me if its not cheerful or interesting. But the lack of mail makes it awkward. Apart from that I feel fit for anything. Roll on the day.

Cheerio Pen. Be seeing you. All my love to you & baby. Keep your chin up darling. All the best.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

14/12/43 P.S. Unable to post darling. Hope to-day

This space should not be used.

MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE

Write the address in large block letters in the panel above.
The address must NOT be typewritten.

TO:- MRS A. BEIZSLEY
MAVFAIR
NEWMHAM-ON-SEVERN
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ENGLAND



21043

Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Address: John A. Beizsley, Sgt. Coy. 5th Bn. Welsh Guards B.N.A.F.



TO. Pen
FROM your ever
loving Husband
Best XXX

CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS

Mayfair
Newnham
Glos

16-12-43 (*Mum to Dad No 112*)

My Darling Husband

Write a few lines while waiting for Marguerite to go off, it's all quiet but I shouldn't be surprised if she's just lay there quiet. The coal came yesterday so lit a bit of fire in there this afternoon to take the chill off a bit. I expect she's watching the shadows might drop off quick though for she was tired. I think I had better make her sleep sometime in the day because its along time from 6.30am to 6 or 6.30.

We went up the street this morning, cold out too. No letter this morning darling. I posted an ordinary one last night. Mentioned in it that Sue is going to write when she can get a air letter. I had a letter from her yesterday she's wondering if there could be any mistake about Ellis. I told Mother that you said his name was on the casualty list in the magazine she must have wrote & told her she thinks by that there might be ????? mistake, said she had a letter from his Dad who is taking it fairly hard getting old & living by himself makes it harder. I wonder if you will get this letter somewhere round Xmas Day Darling., although it's only a matter of 8 days from tomorrow, Perhaps its not likely in time for the New Year. Remember you were here Jan 1st last year. I came to Gloucester with you the following day getting very suspicious then of your going abroad. Another ten minutes & then I'll go & close.

The bedroom door left it open in case it started smoking, not a sound since I put her there never know though I went creeping in one night about an hour after she was still awake. Just lay there.

I hope Mother will come down tomorrow as I haven't written to her don't think she would get a letter Sat if I posted it in the pillar & I don't like the idea of going right up to the P.O. as there's one out from there at 6.0am. Remember going just above there once though in the dark by myself & my husband going off somewhere else not caring a scrap, running off & leaving me on the above all places. I might be a bit heavier if you should think of doing that again darling. I have been ten minutes writing that part should be able to finish this tonight anyway. I'll leave it until a bit later on might think of something else by then

10.10 Have left it late again darling, I had better get to bed or I won't be ready to get up when she's ready to. Shouldn't mind staying there until 8.30 no such luck. I shall be able to add a few lines if I get letter in the morning then can post when I go out. Goodnight my darling. Pleasant dreams.

17.12.43 Well Darling I'm sorry I couldn't finish this afternoon. I have really been busy. I suddenly decided I would make just one Xmas pudding. I wasn't going to bother, as its only one ought to be good, it's risen about 1.5 ins above the top of the basin.

I had a letter from Eileen this morning saying that they had got a house. But I think its a bit big for them. Asked me if I would like to have about 3 rooms, when they come back from there honeymoon. Said I could go & see it, it's on the main Ross – Glos road & a few minutes to the bus for Cinderford & near a station. I expect you know somewhere where that is. I think her husband (to be) will have a farm sometime so perhaps if you thought it would be all right that part we might be lucky if I take this opportunity. Don't think I should be inclined so much to get misty, I think the family will find that journey better, for your never sure of the buses from here to Cinderford. See what the house is like anyway first. She was lucky to get a house straight away the people are leaving today. I also had two shillings in stamps for Marguerite from Nannie a nice letter. I sent her a photo said M. was a darling but how fat I had got . Always remembers me being very slight & small.

Goodnight Darling. All my love & M's.

Always. Your Loving Wife & Daughter Pen & Marguerite I.TA.L.Y.D

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Monday 19th December 1943 11.45am

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Marvellous afternoon sorting out all my mail. Take me a week, by the time I've digested it all. Pipes & tobacco arrived, also the sweets darling. Christmas airgraphs from you, Beat & Mam. Altogether darling I consider myself very lucky. Couple of ordinary Xmas cards from Lydney. Had yours a fortnight ago. Expect you have received my explanation of the word choice. Had to smile about where you mentioned that the old man said I asked him. Glad that Marguerite got over her biliousness. Cannot expect her to be always perfectly fit. Specially while she is young. So long as she doesn't develop anything serious. Would like a photo of her walking beside you, or stood up would be nice. Prefer that we have a girl Pen. More so now that the others seem to be having boys.

We are going to the battalion on Thursday till Tuesday to join in the celebration over Christmas. Then back here for a week or two before we rejoin the battalion for good. Should be a good do, they have allowed for 2lbs of pork per man & plenty of pastries & wine. We shall have a good time darling. As far as eating & drinking is concerned. Think they are going to rig up a few side shows, revolver shooting etc. But we shall miss the most important being together. Hope for the best next Christmas.

Guess next year will hold some important changes. We wear our Africa Star ribbon now not over struck with the colour to represent sands, with a red & blue stripes in it.

Wonder if you have received the snap or parcel yet. Got some more cigs ready, won't be smoking many now I have got a pipe. Smoking it now & enjoying it. Received two hundred cigs from the Comforts Fund for Christmas. They arrived OK this time. Cannot seem to get a chance to send any dates & lemons yet. Might do any time. Won't bother with oranges they are to ripe now to send. Receiving so much from you darling, I feel disappointed when I cannot send anything. Maybe there is better shopping centres when we get to another country.

There is women about the towns here darling. But the thoughts of some of them is revolting. Some of the French girls dress very well & look smart. But I can assure you darling I'm not interested. Very rare we see them, only when we are passing through. To see the towns & people out here we thank god there is an England. With the clean towns & pavements also respectable citizens. How the girls who look smart & clean mix with them I don't know. They must be living in houses we wouldn't look at.

Getting near tea time darling, will finish this. Then read your letters again. Be able to write more then. Shall have to drop a few lines to Mam to tell I've received all the mail.

Big kiss for Marguerite darling. Look after yourself Pen, I am always thinking & hoping we shall soon be together.

Cheerio Pen & Marguerite.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

F.B (*sic* Foxes Bridge)

20-12-43

My Darling Husband

Writing this at Foxes Bridge & what a rotten pen too. I didn't have any air letter last week. We came up on the 2.30 on Saturday. It started to rain on the station it's awfully muddy up the incline. I went up the Morse last night. Eileen got married at 10 o'clock today at Weston under Penyard. I think you probably know that way, she looked lovely too, gone to London for a couple of days. Had the reception at a cafe in Ross. Had a three tier wedding cake horseshoe shape. I saw Eileen's auntie from Bristol, she was disappointed not to see Marguerite, would like me to go down & stay with her sometime. I only had 2 ports & a glass of beer so was quite safe. I was back home about 4.30pm Marguerite was good while I was away. Going back down tomorrow to see if there is any post. May come back up on Friday. Hope I shall have a good batch of mail in between now & then. I'll have to finish this tomorrow, supper is on the table so will see about bed after.

Go down to Lydney I expect on Wed can't write letter when there is a few talking so Goodnight darling.

21.12.43

Got back at 4.30 this afternoon darling, it cleared up for when we went down but it was terrible just before, it started again when we were on the motor, shall be glad when it dries up a bit. Lucky when we got back to find an air letter dated 8 Dec & Marguerite's Christmas greetings got it on the mantle piece, also a card from Son to the three of us. Afraid I have made a bit of a mess of the address, folded it up before it was dry, suppose they will know what it is, it was a rotten pen. Quite a nice verse in Son's card. This card says Merry Christmas but it means a whole lot more. For it includes just EVERYTHING that's worth the wishing for. Carol singing again tonight they have been for a couple of weeks now, making sure of starting in time I should think. Hope its dry to go down to Lydney tomorrow. I brought your big coat down from F.B to-day try & take it down for Fred tomorrow put it in a case so hope it isn't too heavy, one thing it's not really far too & from the bus. No you had not told me about getting the car with the Italian Officers in.

Marguerite was later going to bed tonight gone 7.30. I had to bring her out again she got the wind & wouldn't lie down of course all right now though it's all up. Got in that round basket just now, I gave it her when she was on the chair. Seems funny here tonight, quiet outside. Looking forward to the letter with some of your experiences in. I'll be able to finish this tonight darling its now about five to eight. Go see Eileen's house when she comes back, see what Mam says tomorrow, it helps when you someone else's opinion about it. There's no electricity but the water is laid on, a big garden & couple of fruit trees, would have to shop in Ross. I expect Mam's opinion will put the final decision. I suppose you have sent me a Christmas greetings, its a wonder it didn't come with the one today. After the Christmas rush is over darling I'll try & get another parcel to-gether of something or other. See the P. Minister is back to normal temperature now as to stay abroad for a little while. What sort of training are you having now, like you used to get. I wonder if Wilkins is still in England, he changed over didn't he so that he should go. I am sorry darling I haven't improved for making my letters look respectable, hope you will forgive me. I'll go steady tomorrow night, must remember to get the air letter when I'm out. Trust this still finds you well darling & in the best of spirits. Hope it won't be long now before you come marching home. I shouldn't think it could be very long.

Goodnight my Darling. All my love & Marguerite's.

Always. Your Loving Wife & Daughter Pen & Marguerite

Lots of luck for the N. Year darling for us both.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Wednesday 22/12/43 2.0pm

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Few lines before we go to the Battalion to-morrow for Xmas. Probably have a chance to write when I'm there. Miserable afternoon raining, but its alright in the tent. Got a pipe of tobacco going & those sweets were the best I've tasted for a long time Pen. Taste the cream in the toffees.

In the books you sent I see Miss M.Thomas written in one of them, "Frozen Gold" it was called. Probably belong to you before we were married. Have sent a few more cigs on Pen, careful how you put your hand inside the tin. Its very sharp on the edge just inside. That's if it arrives OK. Darling.

Not much longer for this year to go. Been a very eventful year. Only really bright spot in it, is what I spent with you in January. Amazing what can happen in twelve months. Had mentioned about writing one or two of my experiences out here. But will keep it till I settle down to writing a green envelope. Maybe I shall have a few more by then. Sure to be a few changes in the New Year. For the best or worst, we shall have to wait & see.

Looking forward to the poetry you wrote darling. One or two of the chaps I've met out here have sent some home to there wives. And vice versa. Besides showing the feeling we have for one another , I think its very amusing. But I don't mean in a comical way darling. More you think up, the better I shall be pleased. Will have a go myself, try not to cheat, by using someone else's. Although I've seen one or two pieces in the papers I should like you to see. Excuse the mistakes Pen. The tent flaps are down to stop the rain coming in so lights not so good. And the locket Pen, which photo or snap do you think is best. I've got a decent one, pity we haven't got one of us together.

The woman you met darling whose husband has joined the navy. Might be someone you can strike up a friendship with. Help me kill the time a bit. Mam said something about you were going to stay at Mayfair for Christmas, help Miss Tewsmith out with the turkey. Expect it will be quiet everywhere Pen. There's a new saying out here now. If anyone is a bit browned off one minute, then singing the next. They call them 'bomb happy'. Well darling that's about all I can think of . Sure to be the New Year by the time this arrives. You know what I am hoping for. We might have a bit of luck.

Big kiss for Marguerite. Be seeing you. All my love to you & Marguerite. Always thinking of you Pen. Cheerio.

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.

Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Wednesday 29th Dec 1943

My Darling Wife & Daughter

Christmas is over Pen. Everyone at the Battalion had more than they wanted. Dinner was as good as it was possible to be. Turkey, Pork etc, nuts & plenty of beer & whiskey. Must admit I had more than was good for me. Never expected to see so much beer & whiskey. Never had a drop of wine. Altogether darling, I think I had to good a time. Being in the position we are Pen, expect I drank more than I should have. I mean me being abroad & not able to spend my Xmas with you & Marguerite. Hope your Xmas was alright & had a couple of drinks. Not to many Pen, because its a silly game.

Received most of your mail, the last air mail was where you had just received the snap. Yes there is only one in a beret, mine was knocked about & dirty at that time. There wasn't much kit about so that we could change at that time. The campaign had only just finished, when that was taken. Shall never forget the state of my vest after eight days on the move. Wasn't supposed to wash & shave during that time but its always possible to get a wash. The last eight days of the campaign I mean Pen. Since then we've had all new clothes.

Sorry I didn't mention what was in the first parcel Pen. Was only a few cigs etc. Have sent a box of dates on just before Christmas. Hope they arrive OK would like to be there to have a bit of date pudding. Expect Eileen is married now, another wedding I should like to have went with you Pen. Excuse the words I keep missing out. Forgetting to ask you to wish Eileen all the best from me. She is undoubtedly your best friend. Hope we have the pleasure of visiting them sometime. The pencil marking that Marguerite made on an air mail. I cannot put in words how pleased I was to see it. Shall keep that air mail, got all of yours Pen. But they are making a big bundle. One thing certain I shall never destroy them willingly, if I do.

We are back at this training school for a week or so, the 8th Jan we go back to the battalion. We aren't here to learn anything Pen. E is here to pass out carrier drivers. But you will have a job to follow exactly where we are Pen. But we shall be back at the battalion on the 8th. So I have another week to go before I get any mail. I collected all that was there when we were there for Xmas. Will leave it at that, or I shall get all mixed up. Will be a quiet New Years Eve, expect I shall be asleep when it comes in. But I hope I shall be seeing you before it gets very old. The New Year I mean Pen. See about closing now, post this soon as possible. Being that I haven't wrote for the last couple of days.

Look after yourself darling, may all our hopes be realized in the coming year.

Cheerio Pen & Marguerite

Your ever loving husband. Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.



Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

January 1st 1944

My Darling Wife and Daughter

Just received air mail dated 20th December 1943 but I want to answer that by air mail when I get one. You said I hadn't told you the incident about Italian officers. Which I am surprised at because there was nothing that they would have crossed out. Anyway I feel like writing from the beginning don't know how far I shall get darling. When we landed at Algiers on Tuesday 14th February not very impressed at my first sight of Algiers. When we were waiting to form up an officer asked me if we had brought any mail. He been there a month, not received any. I thought that wasn't so good. Then we set off, told we were to march around the town. Then to a transit camp for a bit. Which they said was only six miles away. There wasn't any transport, ours hadn't arrived.

We marched round the town, plenty of uphill, because Algiers is on a hill. The people lined the pavements cheering. Then off we went to march to the camp. We had done about 10 miles when someone in the R.A.S.E stationed there shouted. "You want to get on a up there, Germans are pushing them back." That was four hundred miles away, he'd got nothing to worry about. Anyway we kept marching, everyone annoyed because they told us it was only six miles. Eventually when everybody was on their knees we got there, an old wine making farm, we had marched 20 miles. Still I was pleased to be able to do it, when men who always march were falling out. Myself and Egerton always used to riding.

Was hoping for a chance to get to Algiers, but our transport and carriers arrived the next day. After six days there, time taking up eating oranges and tangerines. Was a plantation of oranges by the side of us. We set off back in carriers for a six days a ride to Beja, six hundred miles away. Between five and six hundred anyway, a rough guess. All spare space was filled with oranges. They lasted till we got there.

Worst roads I've ever seen, over the mountains a lot has been killed, but we came through without any casualties. Scenery was a good all the way up. Little Arab children came running after us and shouting for *biscuits* or *bisquay*. That's how it sounded to us. We bought eggs off them, had to be careful we don't eat too many.

All together it was a good ride till the fifth day. We pulled into a little Arab Village for the night. The *big noise*, an Arab, offered Egerton and another officer a part of his house for the night. So we slept there, it was quite clean. Some wine was got from what somewhere, we had a sing song. Some sergeants were invited. What we couldn't make out though was the Arab, kept hanging about. We found out after a bit he wanted to lock us in. After a bit we persuaded him to go to bed. But we slept with revolvers handy just in case. We were near the front now, and you cannot really trust any Arabs. Officer was taking no chances. As it happened nothing occurred. The next stage of the journey had to be travelled by night. There was a road called Messersmichtdt Alley. It was a straight road and he used to dive bomb it.

There was plenty of burnt-out vehicles at the side of the road. But we got through OK and arrived just behind the lines, spent one day there, when Egerton and myself had to go in a carrier with number 4 company to look for some Germans. We got to where the troubles was and waiting for the company to arrive. Got talking to some Line Regiment chaps who were already there. Better not mention any names. When they see the rest of the company arrived they said, here comes the chaps to see them off, they will give Jerry something to think about. They kept on praising the Guards up. I was saying yes and no, but they didn't know what I was thinking. Eventually when we pushed on, expecting an attack any minute, it got dark, and Guards were posted for the night. Told if we were attacked to stop till the last minute, then run for it. Egerton had his bed put out by the side of the carrier, I was sleeping just behind. A had to do a turn of guard. Shall never forget it, was a foolish question. I asked Egerton what about his bed, shall I pack it up before we leave, if attacked. Thought since, there wouldn't be any time for anything like that. But Egerton answered innocently enough, just leave it.

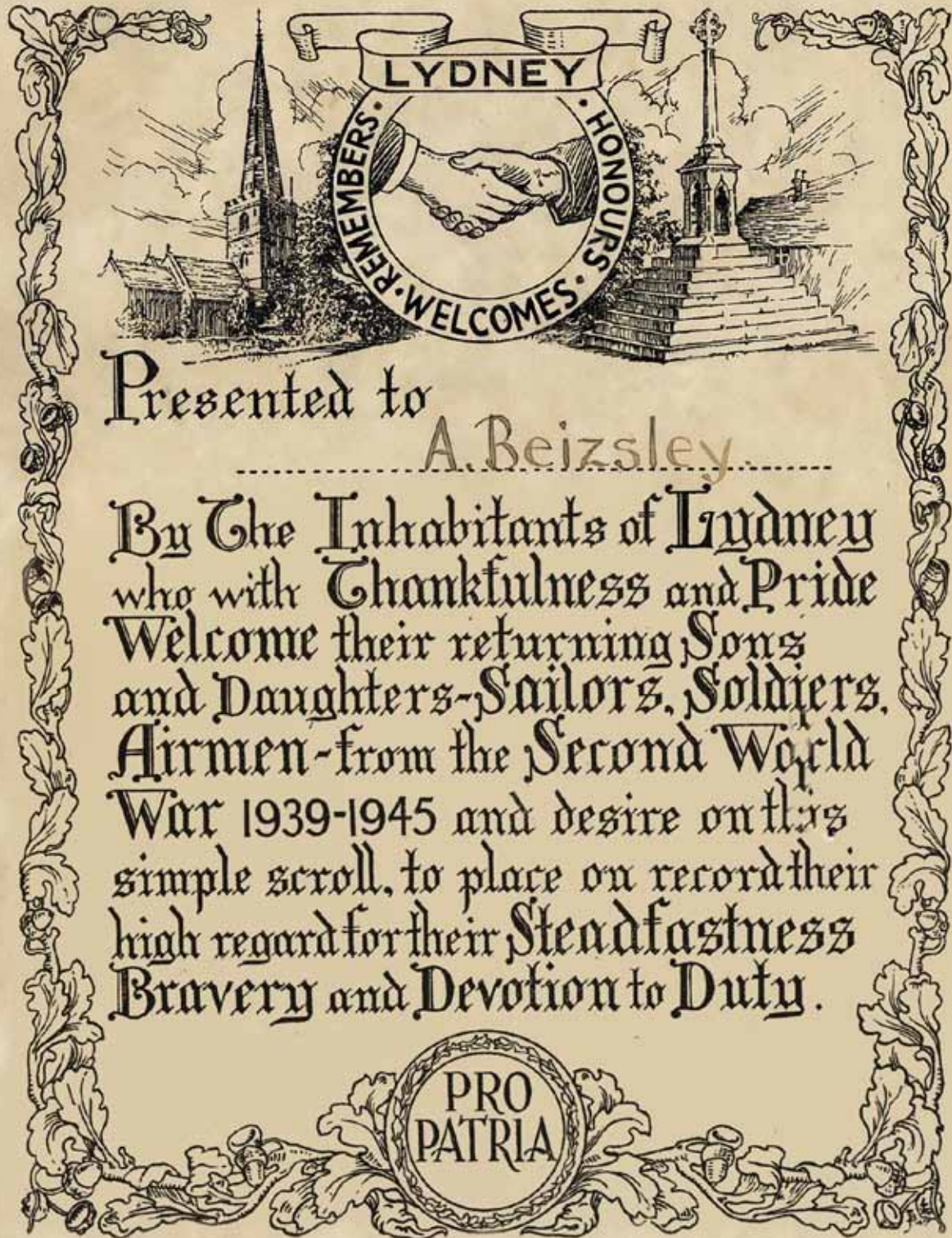
Luckily nothing happened that night. And in the morning we had orders to withdraw. Back in the battalion, they all thought we should have our first bit of fighting. But we didn't. After that we had to move off to a defensive position at a place called Grenadier hill. There we had our first taste of shelling. Got relieved there after being dived bomb once.

Pulled out for a rest alongside a river. Nothing that I can remember happened there, of any importance of. From there Egerton and myself went to a training school for a week. Think I'll send this on darling. Continuing another time. I want to write a couple of air graphs, there is some about. Or there will be to big a gap between. All my love to you and Marguerite darling. Full of hope for the coming year.

Cheerio Pen

Your ever loving husband Bert. I.T.A.L.Y.D.V.M.

War Certificate



Guardsman A. J. Beizsley 7741
Spt. Coy 3rd Bn
Welsh Guards
B.N.A.F.

Mrs A. Beizsley
Mayfair
Newnham-on-Severn
Gloucestershire

Tuesday 19/1/44 (*sic 18th Jan*)

My Darling Wife

Continuing my visit to North Africa. Egerton and myself finished the week training at the first Army School Souk Diras (*possibly Constantine, Algeria*). On our way back we passed another officer going there. He had brought her first batch of mail. 14 letters I received, at least 10 were from you darling. Tried to read them as the truck was going along, but it was too bumpy. When we got back to the battalion, I kept a lookout for Davidson, haven't seen him since we had a drink together at Maison Carrie, on our way to the front. The battalion were still having a rest, prior to the big push. While we were there I wrote and said it would be over in about a fortnight but it wasn't to be, that pushed failed. Will continue that later.

While we were at the rest the area, Egerton and myself went to a small village to try and get some eggs. Surprised to run into Davidson. He had been shopping for his officer. Bought some meat from an Arab place, couldn't call it a shop. I didn't fancy it, I asked Egerton if he wanted any. Said "No." Straight away after that we fixed it to have a drink together. Davidson and myself found a French cafe. Had a couple, but couldn't stop long. Promised Davidson I would look him up when we got back to the battalion. Never did though, probably too busy making pancakes.

We got the warning order to be ready for the big push. As per usual it was a night drive to take up our positions. Arrived there the early years of morning. Hid away from enemy aircraft, in some cactus. There for a couple of days, expecting a big barrage to be put down every morning. Eventually the big guns opened up about 3am.

We knew we would be off some time that morning. Had breakfast all right, then we didn't know whether to cook dinner or not. We decided to do so, servants cooking for officers then. I remember it was Burma Road or rice its proper name. About 11am order came through, be ready for moving from 11.30am. Unfortunately Egerton had to go straight away. That meant I had to go. So I got four mess tins, put dinner in two and duff in the other two, for Egerton and myself. The driver had eaten his while we were packing. Set off in the carrier eating our dinner.

Got to our objective without any trouble. Germans had started to retreat. The battalion came up to new positions about 6pm we had orders to advance again to take a hill at Foudouk Pass. It was getting dark, but we had to get there. So we set off the carriers leading. What a drive, very dark and a cross-country. Keep going till we came to a river. It was very shallow and sandy, but it was decided that it was too risky for Carriers or Transport to cross in the night. Luckily we didn't, Germans would have been waiting for us. They were bound to hear the noise of the engines. So a duty company was sent across to take up a good position for the night. They didn't hear them marching across.

Next day there was a big battle. The regiment won a marvellous name amongst the rest of the division. Details I will skip darling till all that sort of thing is over. I remember I wrote and told you we had been very busy. The Germans were retreating fast, we were pulled out for a couple of days rest. On the Sunday morning we had a Church Service, specially for those we lost. I sat next to Davidson each with the same thoughts. Wondering how long it was going to last.

After a couple of days we moved on again getting heavily bombed on the way. For some reason we had to return. After a week another push was attempted. Same procedure, putting maps together and off to go. This was round about my birthday and Marguerite's. Can remember it well tried to picture you all at home.

(3)
guns opened up about 3.0^{am} we knew we would be off sometime that morning. Had breakfast alright then we didn't know whether to cook dinner or not. We decided to do so, servants cooking for officers then. I remember it was Burma Road, or rice its proper name. About 11.0^{am} order came through, be ready for moving from 11.30^{am}. Unfortunately I had to go straight away. That meant I had to go. So I got four mess tins, put dinner in two & duff in the other two. For I & myself, the driver had eaten his while we were packing. Set off in the carrier eating our dinner. Got to our objective without any trouble. Germans had started to retreat. The battalion came up to the new positions. About 6.0^{pm} we had orders to advance again to take a hill at Foudouk Pass. It was getting dark, but we had to get there. So we set off the

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(4)
to the main Tunis road, first decent road since we came out. We reached our objective without any near escapes. With that Tunis had fallen, but we weren't allowed in there. We had to stop on top of the hill we had taken overlooking Tunis. We could see plenty of smoke coming from there. I thought it was all over & tried to find Davidson to talk it over. But couldn't find him. Waited eagerly for the news at 6.0 am. We always had the news from our wireless on the carrier. Very excited that night. Thought I could write home with a freer mind. The news said Tunis had fallen. That was good going, because it had only been won a couple of hours before. I tried to picture you & mam at home, how pleased you would be, & wondering if I was alright.

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Afraid my hand is aching writing all of that darling. Will finish it off next time. Hoping you will find it a little interesting. Will write an air mail tomorrow.

Good Night Darling

Your ever loving husband Bert

I.T.A.L.Y.D.V.M.

Back for another week's rest. Then for the next step to Tunis. Took up defensive positions at Medez al bab. Waiting for the zero hour. Ordered to fill all water cans, no one was allowed to wash or shave for five days. While we were waiting, the aircraft that we sent over, hundreds of them, had a little sympathy for the Germans. Then we were off again. The order start-up given, I used to like the sound engines racing away. But not so much now. The dust we went through and the sweat it stuck to your face. When we took our goggles off, there was only white patches around our eyes. That was the first day, wasn't supposed to wash for five. But we came to the main Tunis Road, first decent road since we came out.

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Carrier Platoons

The British army in World War Two had many thousands of small armoured vehicles called “carriers”. At the start of the war, the main two types were the scout carrier and the Bren gun carrier. These had armour just down one side at the back, and were the ancestors of the “universal carrier” which came to dominance in the later stages of the war. As its name suggests, this vehicle had a thousand and one uses, and several variants and marks. It must have been a quite successful design, since so many other vehicles were based on it, such as the American T-16, and some larger vehicles developed late or after the war, such as the Windsor Carrier.

It is confusing whether or not carriers were true “AFV”s or *armoured fighting vehicles*. Some people class them as such, and others not. The army numbered them with “T” numbers, which all tanks had, which suggests that someone in high office thought of them more like tanks than like lorries. The

term *carrier* suggests that the vehicles’ prime role was for carrying things, not fighting. They were armoured, however, so that they could be used at the front under fire, which suggests a fighting role. They were something in between. They were for carrying things right into the thick of it. They were little armoured taxis for towing guns, delivering men and ammunition to the front, and getting them out again.

Many carriers were deployed behind the front line, and would perform tasks according to the whims of the moment. Being fully tracked, they could cross rough terrain where wheeled lorries could not go, and their armour would protect them from stray bullets and artillery blasts. Many infantry companies had one carrier in the HQ and four other carriers at the disposal of the company commander. Cynics might suggest that they were used for fetching the officers’ champagne.

A late war infantry battalion would typically have a carrier platoon. In recce regiments, the carriers were organised differently from what follows. For a start, they carried three men, not four. What follows refers to the carrier platoons of standard infantry battalions, and much of it comes straight out of the training manuals of the period (1943) and of course this did not always reflect actual practice. I am grateful for the help Les Jackson gave me in researching this page. See his restored mortar carrier [here](#).



Carrier Platoon

13 universal carriers, making up four sections of three vehicles each, plus a command vehicle. 7 motorcycles, four of which attached out to the sections.

Each section:

- One carrier which would dismount a Bren gun and a 2" mortar
- One carrier which would dismount a Bren gun and a PIAT
- One carrier which would dismount a Bren gun and a No.38 wireless set
- One motorcycle

Command carrier

This would carry the captain in charge of the whole platoon. His vehicle would have a number 18 wireless set in it, enabling him to talk to battalion command. No. 18 sets had a range of 5-8 miles. The captain would talk to battalion command, and Battalion would talk to Company, and he would get his orders that way. The rifle company commander would be in charge of the carrier platoon.

The radios of the time were not just delicate, but also very much affected by weather conditions, and were difficult to tune, and would often drift out of tune. Some wargame scenarios, therefore, might reflect this. On a clear day in the flat desert, radio checks might be made on a 2+ on 1d6, and in stormy weather, immediately after a night drop in a mountainous area, paratroop radios might need to roll a 5 or 6.

Sections

In practice, carriers in carrier platoons fought in sections of three vehicles. Each section of three vehicles would have the spread of equipment - one 2" mortar (with 36 rounds - twice what a foot-carried 2" would have), one PIAT, as well as the LMGs. Therefore, if the sections kept together, the PIAT and the mortar could protect the section as a whole. The senior vehicle in the section would have a sergeant in command, and he would have a No.38 wireless set, which would dismount with him, worn on a chest-rig. This kept him in contact with the other sections of the platoon, but not with the other vehicles of the section, which would therefore have to be nearby. A No. 38 set had a range of 1-3 miles. Each section had an attached motorcyclist, whose main function was to ride back and forth to company/battalion command, not across the front from section to section. These riders had stens for personal protection. The platoon had three other motorcyclists, making 7 in all. There must have been an awful lot of message sending.

Three men would dismount, taking a Bren, and in the case of the junior vehicles, a PIAT and/or a 2" mortar. This means that one man would gun the Bren, another either a 2" mortar or a PIAT, and a third would act as assistant to the other two. The sergeant would be too busy commanding to man a weapon. The driver/mechanic would then drive the vehicle back to safety, possibly digging it in or camouflaging it, and then, sometimes, would join the other dismounted men until it was time to leave. Smoke from the dismounted mortar would be fired a long way forwards, to cover the retreat.

It must be added that carrier crews would supplement their standard issue weaponry and equipment with anything they could lay their hands on. It was common to see carriers with bolted on .3 or .5 calibre Browning MGs, PIATs in the position of the vehicle-mounted Bren, and Brens on AA mountings. The vehicle as standard had a Bren gun poking through a hole in the front. This partially explains why universal carriers were often inaccurately called "Bren carriers". The *Airfix* kit of a "Bren carrier" is actually a universal carrier. Very common was for the vehicle to have a 2" mortar mounted up front on the inside, next to the gunner. Early carriers often had a 4" smoke launcher mounted on the outside. They would also carry a few rifles and personal weapons. One frowned-upon practice involved adding many sandbags to the inside floor of the carrier. Carriers were very vulnerable to mines, having thinly armoured flat undersides, but the sandbags made them very heavy.

Carrier Platoon Tactics

In attack, they were used for supplementing the firepower of infantry, relieving the infantry, and releasing

it for attack. They were vulnerable to counter-attack, though, in this role. They would mount feint attacks to distract the enemy from the real attack. They would if possible encircle the enemy to cut off retreat. They might dismount on a flank, to protect it, or be used as a mobile reserve, or for carrying ammunition and wire to the front line.

In defence, they might be used to form outposts; to patrol between strong nodes; to support counter-attacks; for communication and evacuation; to deploy out in front, ready to fall back quickly, as an early-warning system of an attack; to retreat to an intermediary position, through which friendly forces might retreat.

The carriers withdrew after dark, since they were too easy to stalk by enemy infantry.

Carriers were little use in street fighting, since enemy on upper floors of buildings could so easily shoot down into them.

Misc.

A common specialist variant of the universal carrier was the 3" Mortar carrier. These were in units of 6 + 1 command vehicle, but the individual carriers were usually attached out singly on a semi-permanent basis to infantry units. They bore a diamond with an M in the top half, and the number (1-6) of the carrier in the platoon underneath.

Another variant was the Wasp flame-thrower. The Germans would shoot captured Wasp (and Crocodile) crews, believing these weapons to be ungentlemanly.

The bridging weight of a carrier was 5. This was often displayed on a yellow circular disc on the front of the hull. It is roughly the weight of the vehicle in tons, and would give the officer in charge of a bridge an idea of how much weight he was allowing onto his bridge.

I have corresponded and spoken to a few people who have ridden in carriers, and they report pretty much the same thing: that a carrier speeding across terrain at 30mph bounces and lurches about alarmingly. It is particularly apt at tipping up and down. When it comes to a halt, it tips forwards, before rocking back violently. To fire from the back of the vehicle on the move would be to waste ammunition, and to risk being thrown out.

Carriers had an unusual method of steering. Central bogey wheels would move in and out, bending the tracks, and causing the vehicle to turn. For sharper turns, other methods could be used, involving slowing one track down relative to the other. Carriers could turn very sharply indeed, which was handy in an emergency.

Carriers were not fully bullet-proof. The armour on the front was fairly bullet resistant, but the armour on the sides was thin enough to permit rounds from MGs and rifles to penetrate. Glancing hits, long range shots, and most splinters from exploding shells would bounce off the armour, but if the vehicle came under accurate fire, the most sensible response was to move as quickly as possible. It was not a mobile pillbox.