

not far from here but
pretty well away from
shell fire, so it was a
perfect rest. The hours
were short and we were
absolutely free between
whiles. In that respect
it was the best week I
have ever spent in the
army. It was just like a
taste of civilian life
again. I only had two
breakfasts at the school
during the week. All other
meals I had in town,
where I was sure of a
heartly welcome from
several households.

[2nd line] 24 July

My dear Hazel,

I have not
had a mail since I wrote
last, so this will have to
be just a short note to
let you know I am well.
I am become too dull to
write unless I have a
letter to reply to.

I had a splendid time
for a week at the bomb
school, and came back
to the company yesterday.
We are at present in the
second line, but things
are very quiet lately.
The bomb school was

I had some royal feeds too - green peas and steak pies and salads and puddings and tarts and all sorts of things that I had only dreamt of since I left home. The only thing was that they would very seldom accept any payment, although they were quite poor people. The spirit of the people here is marvellous. I have written and translated letters for refugee girls, and reading between the lines it was heart-breaking to

ack

realise what they have suffered, yet they are wonderfully cheerful and unselfish, and never lose patience with the roughest of our men. Even now they are running a great risk and have casualties nearly every day, but they are absolutely fearless.

I did very well at the school. Exams. were always my strong suit and the work was very interesting.

I hope you are very well and happy, dear. I wish I could be with you when you get this letter. I can just imagine how beautiful Nelson must be in the spring. With lots of love to you, my angel, from Beci