Dear Jim Just a line or two to say how delighted we all are at the news that if all is well you will soon be on the way home Jack & I have just been to the allotment to get the Spuds & Runner Beans for tomorrows dinner we hope you will be home in time to share some of the goods things Cheerio Son & must leave a little room for Jack to write a few likes Love Mate

Dear Janie, Just a few words to close this letter you will pleased to know I am safely home once more, hope it won't be long now before I am meeting you off the boat it's my turn likes time if you remember you saw me off on my little overseas tour roo Hurry it and come home I hope to stay in England abroo hope to get posted near home so I can slip home any when you can.

FORCES LETTER
Not suitable for enclosures
First fold here
Sender's name and address :-
Mrs. Frost,
27 Railway Road,
Wisbech,
Cambs.
U.K.
Third fold here
Affix gummed tab here
Second fold here
To open, cut along this line

5933820
L/Cpl. E. Frost
2nd Signal Section
2nd Batt. Cambs. Regt
No 2. P.O.W. Camp
Thailand

WISBECH
26 AUG
1945
CAMBS
POSTAGE
REVENUE

Dear Janie, Lucky to be able to write to you again after so long. We are all eagerly awaiting the telegram to let us know you are safe & ready to come home. Glad to say Mary has been several times & we are more like sisters than anything, I'll bet she is feeling excited to know that it won't be long before you are home. Puckle just managed to get home for his birthday, lets hope you will be here when yours rolls round, what a day that will be. Must stop now & let Matey & Puckle scribble a few lines,

Love. Rosa

My Dearest Jamie. August 25th 1945

at last we may write a proper letter to you, hoping against hope that you will soon receive it & that we shall soon have news of you. I do hope you are alright it has been such a long time. but Please God we will do our best to make it up to you when we get you home. You will see by this that we are writing this on our dear Johnnies birthday & thank God he is home. he came from Italy by Air & arrived here by the mail train early on Thursday morning we were all asleep but we soon wakened & scrambled down stairs & let him in We were expecting him sometime but didn't know when. I had made him a birthday cake & Mate had iced it. I know you will be pleased to know Mary has been to see us 3 or 4 times she came for the week end for August Bank Holiday this year, & we all like her very much & think she is a grand girl Eileen came as well & Marjorie Bispham but they stayed at Ralphs home. I wonder if you have got many of our cards. & if you know your old Mum has been working as a telephonist at the Wisbech Exchange for 3 years. I took the full course of training & got through the tests in the same time as the girls I am having my fortnights holiday now I am hoping 2 weeks special leave so I shall not go while Jack is at home I am thankful to say he will not have to go abroad again it has been such a long time more than 4 long years. Matey is having his holiday next week & I will leave Rosa to tell you her news. We do so hope we shall soon hear you are on your way home what a day that will be. Wisbech will be mad with excitement. I saw a chap named Cooper a few weeks ago who was released by the Americans & he told me you were alright when he left you a year this June & Mary received a card on Dec 30th last dated May 23rd 1944. We have not had any news since but we never give up hope I saw Ralphs Mother this afternoon & Lorna & her Grandpa & Grandma came to see mum.

My Dear Jamie Lad. 17-9-45

We received the wonderful news this morning that you are really safe after such a dreadful time, needless to say we are all overjoyed. We are eagerly looking forward to getting a letter from you in your own lovely handwriting. I hope you have received the letter we wrote 3 weeks ago when they told us we might. In all that dreadful time we only received 2 cards from you & Mary had one. We sent Marya wire as soon as we knew. so she should know by now. Ralph sent his wire to Eileen. she received it last Wednesday & of course they didnt know till Thursday. & we began to feel rather downhearted as. several people kept hearing & not us. Our dear old Puckle got home on the 23rd of ~~this~~ last month just in time for his birthday. I had a lovely cake prepared. & am going to set about making yours now hoping you will be home for your

birthday. What a wonderful day it will be. when you really get home. I do hope you are well. Jack says have you still got your watch if not he will be seeing about one for you. he has swapped his ~~exercise~~ for a very nice one. I am glad to say we are all well at home Mate has some beautiful Chrysanths. & hopes to get first prize at the show

First fold here

FORCES LETTER
Not suitable for enclosures

WS BEC 3-PM 17 SEP 1945 AMB

To open cut along this line

POSTAGE HEAVENUE

OUR DUTY
5933826 Pte. J.E. Frost
2/Lt. 2nd Batt Cam. Regt.
R.A.P.C.
P.O. Box 164
London
E.C.1.

Sender's name and address :-

Mrs. Frost
27 Railway Road
Wisbech
Cambs
U.K.

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again this year as he did last Jack will probably write tomorrow. he has to go back to his Depot. at Boyce Barracks on Sat. but may get indefinite leave. I hope he does. It seems too good to be true to know our ~~Dear~~. Jamie is really safe. Fondest love from us all Mum Mate Jack & Roza

My Dear Jamie Lad. 18. 9. 45

It is nice to be able to write proper letters to you again. We have sent a cable off today I hope you will soon get it. You will see several changes when you get home Mrs. Ian has passed on also Mr. Hitch & Mrs. Gadsafe. & Mr. Wiles I dont know if he had gone before you went away. Ros & Mate are busy making a handbag for Mary's birthday. You know you asked us to get her one for Xmas when you went away we got a very nice one & she has kept it for best & only uses it for high days & holidays we put a 3 bit in & she thinks you put it in so dont ever let her know you didnt she is a grand girl & we all like her very much. Mate is an expert at bag making now & they are making her a really super one and a purse to match for her birthday it wont be quite finished in time but that wont matter it will be done in a day or two. As soon as we got your Cable Jack got your bykes out & has overhauled it & it looks O.K. we didnt sell at as you asked us to & I am sure you will be glad as you couldnt get one like it now. I wonder if you ever got the cards we sent we only received 2 from you one on Dec 30th 1943 & one on Dec. 22nd 1944 it has been a dreadful time but we never gave up hope that you would get through. Everybody is pleased that you are safe & hopes you are well I let B.T.M.S. know by phone. they have been

very good. they put £25. in the bank for each of their men who were prisoners a year last April & another £25. after V.E. day that means Victory in Europe. day. so if you can manage it perhaps you could write a few lines to them. Ralphs Eileen has lost her father & Mother since Ralph went her mother died a few days before his cable arrived she has been down twice & I think Mary has been 4 times. Marjorie Bispham came with them for the week end in August but she stayed at Ralphs I would like to have her here she has also lost her father he died suddenly last year.

First fold here

Sender's name and address :-

Mrs. Frost,
27 Railway Road,
Wisbech,
Cambs.
U.K.

Third fold here

To open cut along this line

FORCES LETTER

Not suitable for enclosures

WISBECH 9-PM 18 SEP 1945 CAMBS

Mrs. Frost
C/o. Box 164
G.P.O.
London
E.C.1.

80.

7 D

POSTAGE 1½D REVENUE

Second fold here

I wonder if you ever got any letters telling you I was working. I have worked in the Wisbech telephone exchange for 3 years. I took the full course of training & got through the tests alright & have quite enjoyed it. I did about 20 or 21 hrs. weekly. I have been having a fortnights holiday & a fortnights special leave since Jack came home and am due back next Monday morning. I dont feel like going back now that we are hoping you will be home soon. Fondest love from all here

stranded at Peterboro & go to his house & he would get a conveyance & bring you home he would be so delighted to do that poor old pucks did get stranded & didnt get home till the mail an old stamp he didnt let us know he was in England. I have had a very nice letter from Mrs Dannatt

First fold here

Sender's name and address :-

Mrs Frost
27 Railway Road
Wisbech
Cambs
C.I.T.

Affix gummed tab here

Third fold here

FORCES LETTER
Not suitable for enclosures

23 SEP 1945
CAMBS

To open cut along this line

POSTAGE
1D
REVENUE

POSTAGE
1½D
REVENUE

5933820 ORDUNS
Pte F. Frost
2nd Batt. Cambs. Regt.
C/o. Box. 164
London
E.C.1.

Second fold here

she would very much like to see you when you come home. I feel so sorry for her. I dont think Marjorie has heard any thing about Maurice she has only had one card all the time I think she has gimm up hope. Hoping to have a letter soon
God Bless my Jamie. fondest love from all
Mum

23-9-45

My Dear Jamie. Sunday

We were delighted to get another cable from you this morning saying you are safe in British Hands we are so very thankful. I hope you are not feeling too bad after your long & dreadful ordeal. We are all longing to see you. We are wondering if you are on the "Corfu" which we heard on the wireless sailed from Columbo on Friday. Jack had to go back yesterday but perhaps he will soon be home again & anyway it is not as bad as going overseas again. He had a lovely month at home & looks much better for it. I hope I shall soon be able to feed my Jamie up. Everybody we meet is delighted that you are safe. I went to Manea yesterday & then by bus to March Aunt Jon. & I went to see Aunt Maud she has not been very well. Uncle Baff came on Thursday. he is looking forward to seeing you. he would like most of all for you to be

+ has saved you some cake. We marvel that there is never a moan from either you or Ralph in your letters. Jack is being posted to Bristol a long way from home but never mind it's this side of the herring pond. I had a charming letter from B.R.S. today they are pleased to learn of your safety + want to write to you. so I must send them your address. Ron is a full Lieut. + might have had another pip if he had stayed abroad he was in Burma + hoped to be with the lot that liberated you. Ken has got his wings + I think he is on the way home. Alan is in the air force. Dennis is in a training college for teachers he would have been in the army but he had a very serious accident early this year. Hayden is in the Wilts he was called up as a Bevin Boy you won't know what that means but we will explain when we meet which I hope will not be long.

3rd 22nd

First fold here

Sender's name and address :-

Mrs. Frost
27 Railway Road
Wisbech
Cambs
U.K.

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FORCES LETTER
26 SEP 1945
Not suitable for enclosures

To open cut along this line

5933820 O R
L/Cpl. E. Frost
2nd Batt Cambs.
C/o. Box 164
London
E.C.1.



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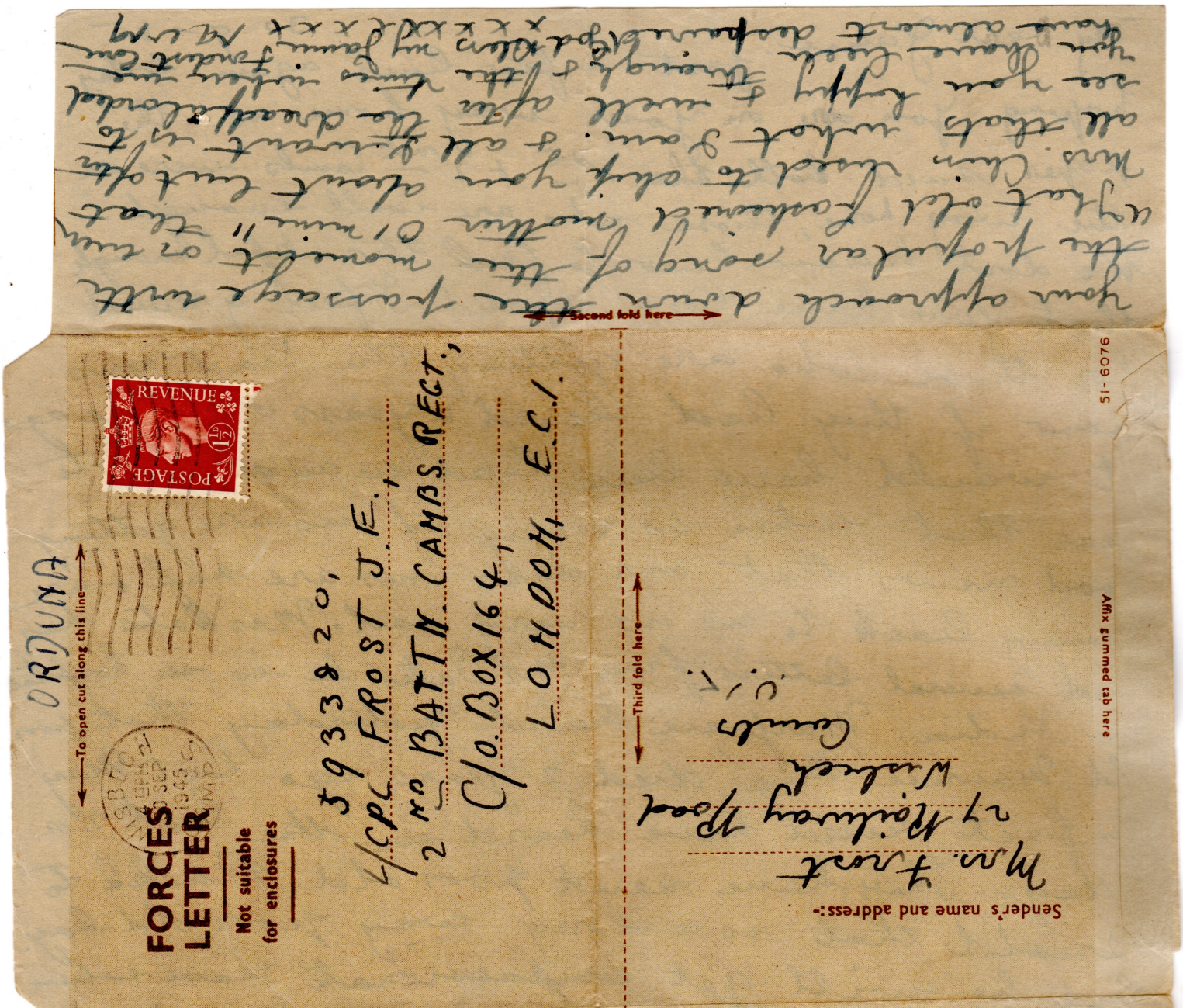
had 2 of the last A.M. cards returned that I sent before V.J. day. Why you haven't had letters from Jack is that only the next of kin should write or if any one else did you might not have got any. We were only supposed to send ale each fortnight & Mary used to write, one fortnight & the next & then I often wrote each fortnight hoping you would get them. Matey is busy getting his taties up. I hope we shall soon hear that you are on the way home. With fondest love from all. We are so glad your weight is so good GOD BLESS our Jamie
± X X X X M U M X X X X

My Dear Jamie, PS aunt Jan. O./S. 26-9-45
also BAFF4.

We were delighted to get 6 letters from you this morning 5 for me & one for Rosamund. I hope by now you have received some more letters & cables. Jack went back last Saturday & is being posted to Bristol. I fancy you surmising that Jack was a Cpl. he has gott a wonderful recomendation from his O.K. I think he has done some very good work he has had an interview at Cambridge with a view of transferring from the uniform staff to the Clerical I hope he wont go back to the old job as he is definitely worth something better. It is wonderful to know you are so fit we have been so worried & thought all sorts of things & if we had anything specially nice it has seemed awful to enjoy it & feel you were starving as I know you must have done part of the time. Mrs Flatland has heard this week that Fred is safe. but quite a lot have not heard yet. We thought you should have lost your ring & watch but never mind you shall have some more when you get home. Jack also lost his ring in the retreat. They had some hellish days & VE & VJ days but we were far too anxious wondering if our dear Jamie was alive to feel like celebrating the war was not over for us till we knew you were safe in fact it wont be really over for us until we really get you home again. It was so nice of you to meet Cecil Garrod. It is very sad about Ray Fordham. & poor little Micky Downs also was killed in Burma. Your cousin Frank was killed in Italy & Tony was lost over Germany. so all the family have fared as well as we have I am sorry to say. I am sure we have a lot to be thankful for. We of course heard that the 18th Div. was at Singapore & after about a month heard you were posted as missing & that was all we heard until Dec 30th 1943 nearly 2 years & we didnt know then when it was written & we didnt get any more news at all till December 22nd last. & that was written the previous May & then on Dec 30th Mary received one written the previous May. so we were so thankful as you see many lads had already passed on when their people received the first card & many have only just been notified & some have no news at all yet it has been a long suspense. but we must look forward now to good times ahead. Mrs. Chis send love & is writing to you. Roy to have married we had a grand do. Jon & Jack sent him a present & he was very pleased

30-9-45

My Dear Jamie. just a few lines again today hoping you are on your way home as the paper said both the 1st & 2nd Camb were on the way home, those who are well enough. We dont know how to feel thankful enough that you have been spared. I feel grieved for those who are getting the bad news now. if they had heard 2 years or more ago it would have been bad enough but to hear that when so many of us are getting the good news that our dear ones are safe & are coming back to us. is very sad. Mrs Oates has had several letters from Mr Oates he is in hospital in India. Marjorie heard yesterday that poor old Maurice 'Pimp' died 2 years ago last May. in fact several have heard in the last 2 or 3 days. They have sent poor old Puckle to Bristol that is a long way poor old boy. but he will get compassionate leave when you come home. I am giving up my job on Oct 12th I feel now I have done my little bit. but I have really enjoyed it & it has certainly been an experience. Do you know the little Wagtail & Robin are quite good pals. in fact they had a holiday in Wales with Mary & a friend of hers & other Mary 2 years ago. I had a letter from Joyce on Friday she has been a widow nearly 3 years she has a little girl 3 years old. Mate is hoping to swipe a prize or two on Thursday



the day of the show he got 2/ first last year but I think the best are over, the show really should be a fortnight later. We have had some wonderful blooms this year I really think the best ever. We have had some nice letters from B & Mrs. & they told me they have written to you - they say they are looking forward to welcoming you back to the firm! what a wonderful day that will be when you really pick up the threads & live a normal life again. & come home all colours. & herald

7-10-45

My Dear Jamie Lad.

We were so pleased to to get your letter on Thursday telling us you are really on the way home we have since had afficcal news from the Red X. We are all getting excited now & your cake is in the oven & it does smell lovely. Auntie Nellie brought some things for it & Mrs. Clis. helped so between us we have managed to get a lovely big one. Iexpect Ralph will get to England on Wednesday or Thursday. I hope you will manage to see Mary if you come through Crewe. wont she be excited. They say they are meeting the boys. & bringing them straight home by car the Red X & Rotary club are seeing to it so you wont be stranded like poor old Puckle was. Well Mates great day is over. & boy has he made a name for himself in the Chrysanthemum world. he got 4 firsts 3 seconds & 1 third for Chrysanths 1st for turnips & 2nd for potatoes. he entered. some parsnips but they didnt get a prize. I wish you could have seen them. we have had some very nice ones before but none to compare with this year. Jack seems to like being at Bristol I expect we shall soon hear he is a Sgt. he said he was O.S.M. the other day. We shall

send him a wire as soon as we get one from you. I am giving up my job at the P.O. on Friday next so I shall be able to look after my Jamie properly when I do at last get him home again. It is wonderful to us to know you are safe & well after all the horrors you must have endured, & after the years of suspense we have had. I dont know if Mary will get some special leave to be with you if so you must please yourself whether you ask her here or go there we dont mind

First fold here

FORCES LETTER
Not suitable for enclosures

To open cut along this line

Sender's name and address:-
Mrs Frost
27 Railway Road
Wisbech
Cambs
U.K.

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5938220
L/Cpl Frost J.E.
2nd Batt Camb. Regt.
C/o Base 164
London. E.C.1.

ORJUNIA

POSTAGE
1½
REVENUE

SI-8076

which it is we want you to be happy in your own way but Mary will be very welcome but you know that. I expect Ralph will soon be married as Eileen has lost both her parents. Rosa is busy writing to Mary now. Ros. & I went to London for the day at Whitsuntide & bought some dresses. We must be smart as there are sure to be some (does) for the lads who are coming home. I feel so sorry for those whose boys are lost. Fondest love from all

14 - 10 - 45

My Dear Jamie,

Just a few lines this Sunday Evening hoping you will receive it when you dock in England once more. We thought Ralph would be home today they had a wire yesterday to say he had landed safely. & all met the trains last night hoping he come. & again to day but apparently there has been a message through that Ralph & Jack Epps are held up at Crewe. I wonder if by accident or design in any case its nice to know they are among friends. We are longing to see an old Jamie. Mate keeps saying Bless his old heart he is 330 miles nearer & how lovely it will be to get that telegram to say you have really landed. Jack is moving again this week so if you dont get his new address dont attempt to send him a telegram. as I shall do that when I get yours. Mate has 4 days due to him & has asked for the week commencing Oct 22nd I expect Eileen is coming with Ralph she wanted her to meet him at Liverpool I dont know if she did. Some of the lads are getting a shock as their girls have married some of them recently. If you could let us know as near as possible when you are likely to arrive home we shall all be awaiting for you. Baffy

would love to know if you are going through Peterboro as they would meet the train. his address is 4 Hankey St. Peterboro. I finished at the P.O. on Friday. they were very nice to me & made me a presentation. some pyrex dishes half a tea service 12 tumblers & a glass jug wasn't that nice of them & the bouquets they handed out you would be surprised. The Post Master said I could go up & see them whenever I liked & if I take you up they will show you all over the P.O. they thought you would like to see where I worked & I was sorry we a way to leave but my feel I have done my bit & now Jamie is coming home I want

First fold here

Sender's name and address:-

Mrs. Frost
27 Railway Road
Wisbech
Cambs
U.K.

Affix gummed tab here

Third fold here

51-6076

OHMS

FORCES LETTER

Not suitable for enclosures

To open cut along this line

BFPO 15 OCT 1945

POSTAGE 1½D REVENUE

5938208
L/Cpl. Frost J.
2nd Batt. Cambs. Regt.,
C/o P.O. Box 16
London
E.C.1.

Second fold here

& give him the home comforts I know he has missed these 4 years. We are wondering if Mary can come next week end. They seem to think they will take you to London by special train but that remains to be seen. We are writing to Mary. I think about a dozen boys are home in Wisbech & Mr. Spencers Bro. in Law is home in Ely. I don't think it will be any use writing any more after this as you probably would get it so until that eagerly awaited day when we shall meet

XXXXXXXXXX

Jamie home fondest love from all mum

MARCONI RADIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF EGYPT S.A.E.
EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY LTD.

C18/B

TELEGRAM

OFFICE OF ISSUE
28 SEP 194

PWM 5933820 L/CPL FROST ORDUNA PORTSAID

12698

MARCONI RADIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF EGYPT S.A.E.

ASSOCIATED WITH

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED

COM. REG. 1ª CAIRO (H. O.) · 10110 ALEXANDRIA · 7955. SUEZ · 694. PORT SAID · (CANAL) 2153

WAXS3911 WISBECH 26 =

= SO THANKFUL YOU ARE SAFE WELL

SEEN RALPHS LETTERS ALL WELL =

MUM FROST ✠

MARCONI RADIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF EGYPT S.A.E.

ASSOCIATED WITH

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED

COM. REG. 1ª CAIRO (H. O.) · 10110 ALEXANDRIA · 7955. SUEZ · 694: PORT SAID · (CANAL) 2153

WAXS3912 WISBECH 29 =

OVERJOYED YOUR CABLE LETTERS ON WAY

ALL WELL JACK HOME FONDEST LOVE MUM

= FROST ✠

MARCONI RADIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF EGYPT S.A.E.
EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY LTD.

C18/B

TELEGRAM

OFFICE OF ISSUE
28 SEP

PWM 5933820 L CPL J E FROST ORDUNA

PORTSAID =

12699

Saturday morning.

Brewe Hall
Brewe
Cheshire

Dear Jack,

Thankyou very much for your letters which I received safely sorry I haven't written before but I don't get much time only at the week-end as I have a class to train and have to spend a certain amount of time looking up lectures for the next day. What did you think to the Blitz on Wisbech. I rang up on Thursday night and was very relieved to hear that Mum, matey & Rosa and our house was O.K. I received a "Standard" this morning from home and also a letter

from Rosa she said she had not heard from me since last Saturday and yet I wrote on Wednesday. I don't know what is the matter with the post these days but it certainly seems pretty bad. I have been on to Tilley again about my pay and he saw the Colonel who said that he would grant me a transfer to a rifle company if I liked and would pay me straight away with the possible chance of more promotion in the near future, or of course if I wait in the Signal Platoon I can get my pay in about three months time. I don't know quite what to do at

present I am thinking it over if I went to a Rifle boy you see I have to take the chance of losing my stripe altogether but I think I could manage that part of it the trouble is I should have to leave all my mates and I am sure the work wouldn't interest me half so much as signalling. you must have had a pretty rough time of it fire-fighting on Ilkley moor, Glad to say I have managed to miss quite a few schemes owing chiefly to this instructors job. I was pleased to see you wouldn't let them

push you off with those old boots it doesn't do to let the Army get away with that kind of thing I hope you will get this letter before you move I will try and write every three days when you go so that you will know that you should be getting some letters even if you receive none for a little while. I Have been acting Signal Officer this week as all the other N. C. O. s have been away on leave and schemes and different things so you can guess how I have been running about, by the way Tilly has gone away on

a course and will not be returning to Signals any more, I think they are going to give him another put and send him to a Rifle company. He gave me quite a bit of praise before he left and told me that if I had been in any other platoon I should have probably been a full corporal by now and so you can see he must appreciate what I have done for him. Well I must close now as it is Pay Parade if you do go before I write again I want you to know that I shall be thinking and worrying about you till I

hear that you have arrived safely so cheerio & all the Best

From,

Your Loving Bro

Jim

H M T. Orduna"
Port Suez Oct 8th

My Dear Bro,

Thankyou ever so much for your lovely letter which I received yesterday I am writing this in a hurry as the post closes at 0830 hrs this morning, I am writing to tell you that God willing Weather permitting this Ship will dock at Liverpool on the 19th of this month, this will give you an idea for when you want to obtain leave, I shall of course send you a wire when I arrive, if poss. I had 10 letters yesterday it is lovely to have someone write such lovely letters to you. I hope you won't be too browned off in your new Station, I was pleased to hear of your application to transfer to the Clerical staff I know you can do it, and you certainly deserve something better, I got the 2nd instalment of your travel talk, I have yet to receive the first, that is usually the case isn't it, you must certainly have had some marvellous experiences. Well John I am afraid I will have to close now hoping you will excuse this scribble also the fact of this being so short, until I see you then I will say cheerio, looking forward now with ever-increasing excitement, & anticipation.

I Remain
Your Loving Bro
Jim

SECURITY : THINK—BEFORE YOU WRITE !!

BY AIR MAIL

Ex. POW MAIL

AIR LETTER

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

FIELD POST OFFICE * 8 OC 45 174

ho 7381440
Cpl J.a. Frost
A.B.S.D.
SOUTHMEAD HOSP.
BRISTOL
ENGLAND.

I. A. F. F.—1083

THIS LETTER IS FOR THE USE OF H. M FORCES ONLY

Written in ENGLISH (Language)

Sender's No. 5933820 Rank L/CPL Name FROST J E

made great friends with her.

By the way, do you remember the chap who worked at Boyces when you left, I met him in Rangoon, he is a signaller in the navy, his name is Don Blower and he is cousin to Ken Blower who has been a P.O.W. with me. I also met Cecil Garrod in Burma he is now a Colour Sgt, he is still the same as ever, just as mad as he used to be at school.

I learn with pride that you are now a corporal, I expect they soon realised your worth once overseas I shouldn't have known you were a Lance-Jack but for one of Ralphs letters. I expect mother told me, but as usual I didn't receive the letter they said there was a photo of you in the local rag.

Really this boat doesn't help you a bit when you are letter-writing, still I musn't grumble as she is really a steady old crate, and has done her bit towards winning the war, when I came out the boat seemed to fly along now that I am going home it seems as if it is crawling along, actually I realise it is my impatence.

They say we will call at Port Said after this to pick up our home service kit, I believe they wear a collar & tie with Battle-Dress nowadays, also I hear that Tam-o-Shanters have replaced the old side-hat, my regimental cap reposes at Crewe, where I left it when I came abroad, naturally I hope to be where they don't wear uniform, before very long after my return, I hear we are getting 200 coupons also a "bivvie" suit when we get our papers, how much longer will you have to do before they release you? not long I hope as I know you will be glad to get into that bivvie suit for good.

Well Jack the time has come for me to close down once again, every time I write now, the letter will not have so far to travel, nor will I for that matter, I will try to let you know later, when I expect to set foot on Blighty until then Cheerio and all the Best, from,

Your loving Brother
Jamie.

H.M.T. "Orduna" Columbo

September 25th

My Dear Bro,

Heres hoping that you are still enjoying yourself in Blighty, and that you are not working too hard. How did you like your birthday cake? I hope Mate is still as good as he used to be, I bet he is, although I don't suppose he has had much practice this past four years.

We are having a wonderful time on board, bags of food, cigarettes, and entertainment, roughly the routine is this, rebeille 6 oclock, 6.30 canteen open for what you all know I am very fond of, a cup of tea, 7.30 breakfast consisting of porridge, bacon and eggs, or liver & potatoes, and of course bread & butter, then comes boat stations drill & ships inspection followed by fruit drink to the sound of sweet music in the form of request records, after this comes tiffin at 12.30 with an issue of a bottle of lemonade per man. In the afternoon there is "Tombola, the canteen also opens again, next comes dinner and after cocoa at 7.30 p.m. comes the cinema or a sing-song. On top of all this we get an issue once per week of 100 fags, boiled sweets, chewing gum, matches and soap, so you can see we are not doing at all badly, to tell you the truth it is like being in heaven after being in a P.O.W. camp. It is lovely to handle some English money once again, you will know if you have seen one of the Seven cards I was allowed to send, that I was working for pay, I was, 30 cents a day, and when I tell you that 34 dollars was the equivalent of £1 in English money, you will find out if you take the trouble to work it out that we were getting about 2½d a day, I think an egg, a very inferior ducks egg at that, used to cost 35 cents when you could get them, lovely don't you think?

What happened to "little Gel"? I understand she wanted to write to you when you got abroad, or had you a secret romance somewhere? I suppose that by now you will have heard all about Mary. Rosa seems to have

At Sea H.M.T. Orduna October 6th 1945.

My Dear Bro,

I expect you may be pretty familiar with this part of the world, we are now running up toward the Suez and the sea at this end of the Red Sea is a bit rough. I don't know yet where we are going ashore, yesterday I heard we may get off at Port Said, or we may go ashore at Port Suez and go up to the top of the canal by train. I think we should reach this end of the banal about 8 p.m. tonight

I think I told you that Ralph left the transit camp before me, well he may be on the "Worcestershire" or the "Corfu", they are two of the boats carrying ex-prisoners-of-war and they were about two days ahead of us at Columbo, they say the Captain has a £5 bet on that he will beat the "Worcestershire" home, I know he has asked two of the ship's that we passed, one of which was the cruiser "Devonshire, as I can still read a bit of morse. Among others we have seen, have been the "Andes", the same boat that was on our convoy four years ago when I left Blighty, she was heading for New Zealand and was carrying mail. We are now passing Mt. Sinai you will probably remember it as I believe you came this way on your trip out, by the way I managed to "click" on the sweep today, I shall get about 5/6 for 6d the run from noon yesterday was 321 miles, which is a poor days run when you consider we have done 349 in twelve hours. Did you notice the heat when you came through the Red Sea, I did, and I have been in the tropics for 4 years, how about when you flew back to Blighty you must have been shivering it was cold enough flying from Bangkok to Rangoon, I expect in about 9 or 10 days it will almost be cold enough for a walking stick!

It seems to be a toss up whether we will dock at Liverpool or Southampton, the crew seem to favour

Liverpool, as they say now that this boat is due for a refit, and that being as she is registered at Liverpool she will dock there, also the men have only signed on for 6 months and that time has already expired.

I am wondering what group you come under for demob and how much leave you had granted when you came from Italy, because you must get leave when I come home as I want you all to be at 27, Railway Road, when I get home at the moment it looks as if we may dock in England round about the 21st of this month, my word it does seem a long voyage, I suppose that is because I am so impatient to get home, just think within 3 weeks I stand a good chance of being in Wisbech once more, I wonder if it has changed much in my absence, I expect many of the old faces have disappeared, John Lemmon must be quite a big boy now!

My word what times we shall have when I get back it looks as if I might even get a birthday and a Christmas at home this year. It makes me wonder what kind of an England I am coming back to when I read some of the newspapers it seems to have changed a lot since I was there what has got into all these girls have they gone mad?

Well John I think I had better pipe down and get this letter in, I suppose this will have to my last as I don't think we call anywhere after the Suez I will try and send you a cable from Port Said and also one as soon as I land in Blighty letting you know when I expect to arrive home so until that glad day, I will say, Cheerio,

From,

Your Loving Brother

Jim

x




THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE REGT