

War Bulletins

Bluebell Cottage

Netherton

Somerset

September 10th 1915

Dear Jack

We have all been thinking about you since you went away. Your little sisters often ask about their big brother and I tell them that you are a brave soldier. They look up to you even more since your dear father died. We are all very proud of you.

I am writing these few lines to put in with 2 pairs of socks I have knitted for you. We hear that it is often cold and wet in Northern France so these might help. I have also put in a bar of your favourite chocolate and some cigarettes - something perhaps to cheer you.

Life goes on here in the village much as it always has done. I will be helping out at the Church Fete next week. Lady Hanson has asked me to man the cake stall. I expect I will take along one of my Saffron Cakes. I will make one for you when you come home.

I will close now my dear boy. If you get the chance, send us a few lines and tell us how things are going for you.

Your sisters Nancy, Maud and Elsie join me in sending you love and our hopes for a speedy return.

May God's blessing rest upon you and keep you safe.

Your loving Mother

British Expeditionary Force

Northern France

September 17th 1915

Dear Mrs Harding

As your son's commanding officer, it is my painful duty to give you some sad news. Private Jack Harding was killed yesterday by enemy fire. He and a number of his regiment died quickly in a surprise attack, which took place under cover of darkness. I can assure you that he did not suffer for long.

I must also tell you that he showed great promise in all his newly acquired skills and was highly thought of by fellow soldiers and officers alike.

I will end by sending you my sincere condolences on your great loss.

Yours sincerely

George Stuart Jones

Lieutenant Colonel,

Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry