



TBB1/1/1/1/283

A four page letter from Thomas Baker Brown to his family from a prisoner of war camp in Dülmen. Thomas reassures his family that, despite being taken prisoner, he is okay.

“Camp 44B Barrack 30A 12th April 1918

My dear Father, Mother and Hazel

This is the first letter we are getting away so I hope it reaches you safely. We are getting on fine and as you may imagine it is a new experience for us. This is a good camp and of course the decent weather makes it a lot better for us.

I am along with a chap from Heaton who was with our Battalion. Unfortunately all my chums were casualties and we who did come through it all right can count ourselves very lucky. It seems as if He has guided us safely through it all. McMurdo was along with us but I have not seen him for a while.

You can let George know my address when you write to him. I don't think there is any restriction on your letters although I expect you will know how to write. You are not of course allowed to send papers. As regards parcels do not do anything until I can let you know exactly. So far as I know at present you cannot send anything with the exception of an International Money Order but I will write you later about it.

Will you please let Ralph know that I cannot write him and also anyone else who used to write. I might be able to manage a Post Card for him later on. Of course I will always be glad to have a letter from anyone but I will not be able to write a letter in reply.

Don't worry about me. I am as right as rain here. Whether it is temporary or permanent I don't know.

I expect Hazel is still showing them how to do things at the Square.

This place quite reminds me of old Strensall Camp and if it was warmer a stretch of water in the distance would prove very inviting.

Well I'm afraid I shall have to close now so cheer up and I shall be very glad to hear that all is well at home.

Thomas Baker Brown: The story of a First World War soldier from North Tyneside

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**I am writing the address below in case you cannot quite grasp the other. Love to you all
Your loving son Tommy x x x x x x x x
Private T B. Brown 38513 23rd N.F. Company 44b, Group 3, Barrack 30A Gefangenenlager
Dulmen Westfalen Deutschland”**

Key words:

Battalion – a large group of about 1000 foot-soldiers (infantry)

International Money Order - a way of sending money to someone in another country

Questions:

Why does Thomas think he is lucky?

Why do you think Thomas can't send so many letters now?