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## TBB1/1/1/1/12

Two short extracts from a letter from Thomas Baker Brown to his father from a training camp in York, 23 December 1915. He describes the weather and having to do gymnastics and bayonet drills.

"The weather here is the same as at NS [North Shields] Rain rain rain. By the time we get to the parade ground at Scarcroft in the mornings we are thick with mud... ...we are now getting bayonet drill and a lot of gymnastics. I am feeling very fit and have not been in the least ill since my arrival here."

## Key words:

<u>Bayonet drill</u> – practicing and following orders about how to use a bayonet ( a knife-like weapon that is attached to a gun (musket) and is used for stabbing or slashing in hand-to-hand combat.

## Question:

What sorts of exercise Thomas doing as part of his training? Is it working? Pick out the phrase from the letter that show you this.

Thomas Baker Brown: The story of a First World War soldier from North Tyneside © 2019 Newcastle University – more resources available from Newcastle University Library Education Outreach at http://archivesalive.ncl.ac.uk