



TBB1/1/1/1/210

A letter from Thomas Baker Brown to his mother from France, 1 November 1917. He thanks her for sending a parcel of food, including 'sauce' and 'pears and apples', and asks that she send him some 'Gong soups'.

“My dear Mother, Your letter and parcel I received quite safely today. The contents of the parcel were quite appetising and soon began to fill up the odd corners of which there were a few. All your parcels have arrived ok and so far I have been lucky in that respect. The sauce arrived in good order and it made the coloured water go down quite nicely. Next time you are sending anything on would you include some Gong Soups as they put a good flavour in the stew and are just the thing. Pears and apples were just a wee bit gone, but they went down all the same.”

Key word:

Gong Soups – soups that came in packets of dried squares (like stock-cubes). You can see an advert for Gong Soups on page 9 of your comic.

Questions:

Why do you think Gong soups were a good thing for Thomas' mother to send to him in France?

Why do you think it was not such a good idea for Thomas mother to send him fruit?

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

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