

Wednesday May 24th 1916

Somewhere in Egypt

My Dear Mother

Thanks for your letter of May 9th. I also received the news two [sic] day before the letter. I was very sorry to hear about Percy. It's one of the misfortunes of war and causes such a lot of grief. I am thankful to say that I am still alive and well. I thought my day had come last Easter Sunday when 3,500 Turks, Austrians and Germans attacked us and were only about 600 strong – but the Warwickshire Yeomanry got off very lightly compared to what the Worcesters and the Gloucesters lost. It was the second time within a week that I was in the fighting line and it's not by any means a pleasant sensation being shot at. It gave us a certain amount of pleasure next morning to see some of [the] damage that had been done. The Battlefield was strewn with lots of dead Turks, also Horses and Camels, after one days heat here you can smell them for miles, it's horrible, things are now much quieter with us, as we are much further back and we are resting, we are not allowed to do any work at all between 10.30 and 4.30 owing to the great heat, so we shall be all the more fit if we have to start on them again, I am pleased to hear that my Gladys is well, a good girl. Tell her I bought her a string of corals for her neck last Saturday in Port Said. We are not allowed to send anything only letters through the post. So she must wait until I can bring them which I hope will not be so very long. There is a rumour going round that we are coming home shortly and I hope it's true, if it's only for a short rest.

... Give my love and kisses to Gladys. Remember me to Aunt Polly and Aunt Lottie. Thanks for Mr and Mrs Blands remembrances.

Yours with love

Charlie