



British Troops Entrenched WWI

Message from the Germans

Sapper W. Aust, now in the trenches in France, writing in acknowledgement of a parcel from a friend in Corsham, says: "I had just come back from the trenches, as we had been up there all day sapping towards the German lines. It is rather a wet job, as we have to sap under a river. As soon as I came back to my billet I saw on my bed a parcel, so I and a few comrades enjoyed the cake for tea. I can tell you, it is not much pleasure to get caught in the gas. I have had some. It gets down your throat and parches your throat. We are having a good time here to what we had at Ypres. The Germans threw over several letters the other day, telling our chaps that they would not fire if ours didn't. But they told our chaps not to look over the trench, as they would fire high at night. Where I am now is the place where they had two days' truce at Christmas and stopped fighting. Our Company has started leave. They are letting four sappers go a week. They are having five days' leave, but I'm afraid it will be a long time before my turn comes."