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June 10th 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 002 Dear Father & Mother. I am at Bedford as you see, I have nothing to say only I write to let you know that I am a live (sic) and kicking, shall write soon and tell you fool perticulers (sic) some other time. Be shore (sic) that I am all right. I don't know how long I shall stop, so I conclude and remain your George A. Jones
June 15 th 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 003 Dear Father and Mother. I am a bit of a Soldier. I am in the Bedford Militia only for 2 months, but I dare says (sic) I shall list in the reglars (sic). I want to get in the Hussars if I can, if I can't I shall perhaps list and perhaps shan't. I have got a good chum. He will do anything for me and he will go in any Ridgement (sic) with me. The Bedford Ridgement (sic) is a nice little coarps (sic) but I don't think I shall go in that. If any body asks you what I am in, tell them that I am any ware (sic) besides the Militia. I don't suppose I shall be in it long. Write and tell us how you all are. I am quite well and I like soldering (sic) verry (sic) well, as yet of course, I can't say much a bout it yet-a-while. I don't suppose I shall come home in these clothes. Tell me wether (sic) Bob Judge gave you the saw (drawing included) and send me a letter if you have got one, from George Judge. I think of Father when we have our dinner. We do mannadge (sic) to peel the Potatoes though, but you have to charge for it when it is all heaped out. If I have not told you a nough (sic) you must excuse me this time and I will put it in the next, so good bye for this time. George A. Jones 255 C Company Bedford Barracks
June 22 nd 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 004 Dear Friends. I am just going to send this off. It will be best at home if I ware (sic) my gearsey (sic). Received your letter this morning and was pleased to hear from you. I am in a hurry, I can't write much, my chum is (sic) gone to Cold Chester (sic) for a week. Got ready for marching order to night. Before going out we have four hours a day drill. Was at coal cart today, (?) I thought of Mother being in barracks then, when we took it to the married people. I must conclude and remain your loving son. George A. Jones PS. Tell me wether (sic) Bill is gone to London For Bill Souster and Bill Groves
July 1 st	Bedford Barracks	WHL 005 Dear Friends. I received your letter and was pleased to hear from you. Jim Facer is mistaken, you can list in the Bedford Millitia (sic) at any time. I am in for two months, it is not like the Bucks Militia. I had a letter from Bill Souster and he told me that Jim Facer said you could not list in the Militia now. I had a letter from George Judge. I should like to see you all very much, I could get a pass and come home on a Saturday night and back on a Sunday, but I don't much care for coming home in these clothes, but I can if you like. I wrote to Bill last Sunday. You don't seem to say much about Father - doesn't he approve of me going in the Militia?. It was marching orders yesterday, had my pack on then for an hour. A draft went away today for Cold Chester (sic). It is General's inspection on Friday. I don't know wether (sic) you have seen the sovereign in my box, it will do for Mother. I shall have thirty shillings at the end of the two months. The Bedford Ridgement (sic) is not a bad one, they look very nice on Sundays, but I shall try

		for the Hussars first. Am just going to have tea, the other chaps are a-boozing. We have had a settling up today, Dad knows what it means I know. I have no more to say so I now conclude and remain your ever loving George A Jones 255 C Company Bedford Barracks
July 5th 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 006 Dear Friends. I could not come on Saturday, I put in for a pass but did not get it - shall try again next week. I have just come back from church, we had a hard day's work Thursday, but after Generals inspection we had it very easy. We was done (sic) about ten o'clock in the morning and never done (sic) any more yet - that is up to Monday morning. Tell Bill Souster that I am coming home next week so that he can come up to our place on Saturday night, for if I come home I shall get there in the afternoon some time. I shall not go any where if I come only stop about the place, so I now leave you for this Sunday hoping to see you next. Shall be able to tell you more then ,so I conclude and remain your ever loving son George A Jones PS Write soon
July 14th 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 007 Dear Friends. Arrived quite safe, my chum is going away today, going home but he says he shall soon be back. We are going to Cold Chester (sic) on Munday (sic) a-firing for two or three days, about a dozen of us Militia. I have not got much to say for myself this time so I must conclude and remain your ever loving son George A Jones
July 24th 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 008 Dear Friends. Have not been to Cold Chester (sic) yet, don't suppose we shall go now, don't think there was enough of us, there was a-bout (sic) a dozen of us for it, but two or three went away so I expect there was not enough of us. I have a nother (sic) week next Wednesday, there is some old soldiers a-coming home tonight. I am looking for them as I write this letter - they are just passing the winder (sic) so I must go down and see them, so goodnight, with best love to you all George A Jones
August 5th 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 009 Dear Friends. I have enlisted in the 16 th Bedfordshire Regiment to day, have not got my clothes yet, shall send my clothes home when I get them, only my trousers. I could not get in the Hussars - am not tall enough, best as it is, did not care which, in this I shall be dismissed sooner and shall be nearer home. I might get promoted and then get stationed at Bedford. There is more on the staff non-commissioned officers than there is regulars, all cullar (sic) Seargents (sic) and Seargents (sic) - done so long in the reglars (sic) and then put on the staff. There is a young Officer a recrute (sic) up now drilling with the privats (sic). We had a smart fellow come up the other day, quite a Gentleman, lives independent at London, a wife and two children was going in the 15 th as a private, but he had got a big vein in his leg. He was a big chap, smarter than our Officers. I shall come home before I go to Cold Chester. Have no more to say, so I conclude and remain your ever loving son George A Jones

	1	14/11/1 004
Undated	Well House Bletchley	WHL 001 Dear Jack (Loo), You never write to me now, I think you must have forgotten me. I are going to Bedford with the temperance (sic) at the school, just right to see George. We are going to have a large room to have tea, and they say we are going to play in a field near the river, so you see we shall be jolly - shan't we?. We have got a (???) club for the temperance (sic) boys, and we are going to take the thing with us, and have a game. I remain yours truly. B
		(two drawings of a schoolboy's head in a cap. The one on the back sporting a moustache!)
August 27 th 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 010 Dear Friends. I arrived quite safe, in time to be summonsed for guard, came off this morning. I have nothing to say, so I think I will conclude and remain your ever loving son. George A. Jones
September 3rd 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 011 Dear Friends. Received your letter, was glad to hear from you. I am sorry to hear that Mother is not well, hope she will be well soon. Don't know wether (sic) I shall come home at Bletchley Feast, shall see before it comes (missing text) Will you get that book if you can get it. If you can't send the others all together when you get a lot. Has (sic) for the apples, they went as soon as I got in the room, some of them before. I have just come off guard and got me pay, this makes my third time of going on guard. Tell Bill Souster that I am all right and well - never was any happier. I acted as Corporal the other day. I shall try and get home with George Judge if I can for a few days. I think I must conclude and remain your loving son George Alfred Jones
September 16 th 1885	Bedford Barracks	WHL 012 Dear Friends. I received your letter and also the books, and was glad to hear that Mother was better. Don't think I shall come home just a' while - the draft is going on the first of next month, but there is only eight for this one, so they say, but we shall know soon, I hope. I do have to go. I want to get dismissed if I should have to go with this one. I shall come home next week, I daresay - if not I shan't trouble until a month or so. It is according to how I feel. Apples, ploombs(sic), jam tarts, custards we can get them here, oh yes, but we have to pay for them. I was vasconated (sic) las Wednesday, went up before the docter this morning, six of us was excused - Dad knows what it meansstruck off drill and work, but confined to Barracks and can't go in the canteen. I can't say any more because I have said all I know, so I must conclude with best love to you all and remain your ever loving son. George Alfred Jones
ndated		WHL 013
		Dear Friends. You may expect me home on Friday if all goes well. I am going to the range to fire today. Nothing more to say this time. Must close, with best love to you all, I remain your loving son. George

		(In John's handwriting beneath - When you read this you will say " all at home except poor Lou")
Undated	Kempston Barracks	WHL 014 Dear Loo. Received yours this morning. Very sorry, but I don't think I can get home on Friday next, will let you know if I can. It is not so bad in Bedford now, plenty of dancing. Must close (having nothing to say) & remain your dearest pet. Geo. Jones. Cpl. (?????)
		PS Best love to all from your Pet. GAJ.
		PS I never hear from Bill Souster & George Judge now. You might let me know if you hear any news. If I had Bill's address I would write to him. GAJ.
Undated	Kempston Barracks	WHL 015 Dear Loo. Received yours this morning. I was sorry that I could not get away on Friday. I shall not be able to come next Friday, in fact I don't know when I shall be able to get home. I will let

Undated	Kempston Barracks	you know when I can. I have plenty of dancing hear (sic), but I should like to come just because you are there, but I want a few necessaries to fit me out to be presentable before I venture home, such as trousers - can't get them just when you like, and I have not a fit pair to wair (sic). Don't expect me till you see me. Good dinner time, love to all from George
	Barracks	Dear Loo. Received your letter this morning, so you will not receive this until Wednesday morning. You can come any afternoon that you like, but don't come in the morning - after dinner you will have quite enough of it in the afternoon. Goodbye for the present from your loving brother George
Undated	Kempston Barracks	PS You will get this on Wednesday, come in the afternoon if time. GAJ
		Dear Loo. Just a few lines in answer to your letter. I am glad to hear that you are well and happy, I am the same as far as you are allowed - there will never be any happiness for us poor devels (sic) but work - I suppose though, that I do very little of it. I shall have it pretty soft as long as I stop heare (sic), I pitty (sic) the poor d that are at Aldershot - they have plenty to do, I know. I have not had a letter from Selina yet, so I do not know what sort of place she as (sic) got, perhaps you have had a letter from her.
Undated	Kempston Barraacks	I have set myself a task, I have started a tablecloth - it is composed of little dimionds (sic) about an inch long. I have got it about seven feet long and a foot wide. I send you my mug, I don't know (sic) what you will think of it, I supose (sic) you have some other fillows (sic) mug to look at. Must close. By by (sic) Benty (???) by by xx Discription of cloth (sketch supplied)
October 13 th 1885	Bedford Barracks	Dear Loo. Received your letter, was pleased to get it, pretti (sic) good lightness (sic) - just the same as mine in the face. You look deucedly fat and well, the chaps say you look much older than me, so do I think so. Do you want this one back? Or is it one towards my collection - the housemade's (sic) I mean. I daresay you can soon get a nother. Hers is a better lightness (sic) than your's - looks better in the face. I supose (sic) it is the collour (sic) on our faces or we frighten the machines - which is it?
		Dear Loo. I supose (sic) you will be surprised this time, but I want you to do me a favour. I have thought of waring (sic) flannels for some time next my skin, and I was thinking perhaps you would make them for me. Speaking pain Loo, I am devilish hard up - I have about six pounds. I should never have asked you for it only that I am so pushed. Well, I don't ask you for it now, only I think it will pay for the flannel. I think you can make them. I whant (sic) them like signits (singlets?). I don't whant you to put a lot of stuff in them, short sleeves, something after this stile (sic) (drawing supplied). I would like you to make them of the stuff they make cricketing flannels of. Dear Loo, I am almost ashamed to ask you for this, only I don't know who could make them - I don't know if you can, and I am

All letters this year from George Alfred Jones (except brief note from Sarah)		
Undated	Depot Bedford Rgt. Kempston Barracks	so pushed - this bycicle (sic) that I had, I am paying £1 a month on it. It keeps me so short that I'm sorry that I had it, but if you can do this for me you shall not go unrewarded. I will think of you when I pay off my machine, but I must not regret having it. I may run down to see you on it yet his winter if I should go on Furlough. Bedford Fair was last Monday & Tuesday & I will remember it for I lost alf a soverin (sic) & got a cold in the bargain. I could almost knock my head off when I found that I had lost it, me being in debt too, as I am, that is my luck as usual. Oh, by-the-by - do you whant misherment (sic) for those flannels?. I supose you can judge skin tight, chest 36 inches, waist 30 neck 151/2, but you will want the neck bigger than that to allow for the top shirt. I must close with best love from your loving brother. George.
		Dear Loo. Received yours this morning. I don't whant(sic) you to send me any money, I only whant you to make them for me, and make them of what stuff you think best. I think that what you mentioned would do nicely. I think the other would be too thick after all, I mean the cricketing stuff. I am just going to tell you how I stand. Had my Bycicle on the easy payment sistem (sic), pound down & a pound a month. The price was £8. I have just paid half of it, and shall pay one more this month - then I owe the tailor one, and a nother man a half one, you see I had a undress jacket & waistcoat. I bought the jacket for nine shillings - well that is nearly half one, I shall pay that this month & some of the tailor's. Well I got these things cheap, I only gave 16/-s for them where I should have give two or three £s for them if I had them made, which I should have done this winter. This dress is on purpose for dancing Don't you trouble about me, I am sorry that I told you now, you see I wanted some flannels and I thought if you made them I should get them sooner, where I should have to wait a couple of months if I bought them myself.
		Dear Friends. You can see that I am still at Bedford for a nother (sic) month or six weeks. You can tell Bill that I am still at Bedford, and also Tom Scott. I shall be third man in the next Draft. I hope you will be able to come some time in about three weeks time, but mind and come on Saturday, because of the market. I forgot the Housewife - perhaps you will be able to bring it with you, if you don't forget, and my draws as well, it will save me coming home perhaps. I don't think I have anything more to say, so I conclude and remain your ever loving Son. George Alfred Jones. Dear Friends. I received your letter and papers this morning, quite safe. I wish you would come as soon as you could if you mean coming, because I don't know when we shall go to Colchester. They say we shall go next week - all the lot of us, so if you don't come on Saturday, you won't be able to come at all. There is so many reports, that you can't tell. Perhaps we shan't

go 'till next month if we don't go next week. I will write and let you know. You can keep my white shirts at home for a while. I will ask Will Souster if he could come with you, I don't know wether (sic) he will or not. I will write soon a-gain (sic). I remain your loving son.

George Alfred Jones.

Dear Friends. I received your letter quite safe. The draft is going on Thursday - fourty is a'going, but it is the latest recruits. I am going the 15th of next month, so you will have plenty of time to come before then. Send my clean clothes as soon as possible, I am getting lowsey (sic). It was Bedford Fair yesterday. I seen Jim King from Water Eaton there, with 'is (sic) girl that used to be at Bennitt's as nursemaid - you know. I was with a girl - she gave me her Foto (sic) and she maid (sic) me have mine taken - three for a shilling, by electric light. She paid for them and had one, so I send the other two home. You can see her's when you come to see me. I think I will give out writing, so I will conclude and remain your loving son.

George Alfred Jones.

Dear Loo. Received your letter quite safe. I told you that I was going to the Regiment, well, it is only a roumer (sic) that me and one more Corpl. Is going when the draft of Recruits go on the 15th of next month. We are not shore (sic) that we are going. If we do. I shall pop home just before we go. I should like to go back again to the Regiment. I could go down to Portsmouth for a few days, but I don't know for sertain (sic). Loo, might put it off for a weak (sic) or two, then I might get home for a day or so.

		Don't you think of sending me money, I can spare two pounds a month towards my debts & then have nearly a nother for my pocket. Well, I can have 15/-s anyway. You want to know the seize (sic) of my arm. If you judge according to the size of your own arm, I think that will do. I was thinking about 18 inches armpit & 14 mussle (sic). I am going to a dance to night. We have three nights a week in Bedford, Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays. You don't say wether you get any. I supose (sic) you do sometimes. Must close, with best love. From George.
Undated	Kempston Barracks	Dear Loo. Just a line to let you know that I received the flanels quite safe - they will do nicely thanks. I was just thinking that they would be nice to put on this wether (sic). When I came back from breakfast I saw them on the bed, I guessed what it was. I could not wish them to be better. You have put plenty of buttons on one, seven & five on the other, but that does not matter as long as I have them. We sent a draft to Malta, they arrived at Portsmouth on the 14 th of this month. They went out on the Malabar. If you think of
Undated	Kempston Bcks.	of this month. They went out on the Malabar. If you think of coming home before March, you might let me know, then I can get home with you. I can get a Furlough from the 15 th of December to 15 th of January, or from the 1 st of January to the end of that month, or from the 15 th of that month to the 15 th of Feb. or from the 1 st of Feb. to the end of the month or from the 15 th of that month to the 15 th of March. That is the end of the Furlough Season, so if you think of coming home before then, I may get home with you. I shall have a month some time. It is not much good going home to see any thing, but if I go I shall use my Iron Horse in the day time, and sit at home at night sewing. I am making a hearth rug now, for Mother's front fire place. She does not know any thing about it so it will be a surprise. I intend it to be a Xmas box, I think I can get it done by then. Don't you mention a word about it. I remain your loving brother. George
		Dear Loo. I am sorry I could not get away, what with fellows on furlough & in hospital – the duty runs so heavy. I should like some of mothers Xmas pudding. This is fine skating wether(sic), - if it lasts. I supose(sic) they are having a fine time on the New-found out. I supose(sic) I shall be going back to the Regt. Shortly. They will soon be going out to Malta to relieve the Essex Regt. – they are going to Egypt, if anything turns uo – but they don't know exactly when they are going. If Mother as(sic) got any more pudding left, you might send me a bit
		(Doesn't seem quite right in October!!)
		I conclude my short note with best love to you all, and remain tour loving brother George G.A. Jones PS My Pet wrote two letters to me since I have been hear (sic),
October 3th 1885	Bedford Kempston Barracks	but I would not answer. G.A.J.

		(Don't think he knew Mary in 1885 – was this some other "Pet??"
October 8 th 1885	Kempston Barracks	Dear Friends. You can see that I am still at Bedford for a nother (sic) month or six weeks. You can tell Bill that I am still at Bedford, and also Tom Scott. I shall be third man in the next Draft. I hope you will be able to come some time in about three weeks time, but mind and come on Saturday, because of the market. I forgot the Housewife - perhaps you will be able to bring it with you, if you don't forget, and my draws as well, it will save me coming home perhaps. I don't think I have anything more to say, so I conclude and remain your ever loving son. George Alfred Jones.
		Dear Friends. I received your letter and papers this morning, quite safe. I wish you would come as soon as you could if you mean coming, because I don't know when we shall go to Colchester. They say we shall go next week - all the lot of us, so if you don't come on Saturday, you won't be able to come at all. There is so many reports, that you can't tell. Perhaps we shan't go 'till next month if we don't go next week. I will write and let you know. You can keep my white shirts at home for a while. I will ask Will Souster if he could come with you, I don't know wether (sic) he will or not. I will write soon a-gain (sic). I remain your loving son. George Alfred Jones.

October	Bedford	Door Friends I received your letter quite cofe. The droft is going
13 th	Barracks	Dear Friends. I received your letter quite safe. The draft is going n Thursday - fourty is a' going, but it is the latest recruits. I am
1885	Darraono	going the 15 th of next month, so you will have plenty of time to come before then. Send my clean clothes as soon as possible, I
		am getting lowsey (sic). It was Bedford Fair yesterday. I seen Jim
		King from Water Eaton there, with is (sic) girl that used to be at Bennitts as nursemaid - you know. I was with a girl, she gave me
		her Foto (sic), and she maid (sic) me have mine taken for a shilling by electric light. She paid for them and had one, so I send
		the other two home. You can see hers when you come to see
		me. I think I will give out writing, so I will conclude and remain your loving son.
		George Alfred Jones
Undated	Depot Bedford	Dear Loo. Received your letter quite safe. I told you that I was
	Regt. Kempston	going to the Regiment, well, it is only a roumer (sic) that me and one more Corpl. Is going when the draft of Recruits go on the
	Barracks	15 th of next month. We are not shore (sic) that we are going. If
		we do. I shall pop home just before we go. I should like to go back again to the Regiment. I could go down to Portsmouth for a
		few days, but I don't know for sertain (sic). Loo, might put it off for a weak (sic) or two, then I might get home
		for a day or so.
		Loo could come over on next Saturday afternoon if she as (sic) nothing else to do. I don't supose (sic) I shall be on anything on
		Saturday - shall be on Guard on Sunday, so if Loo would like to come over, if she thinks of going so soon to Portsmouth, if she
		should come over she can bring that Xmas duff. Must close, with
		best love to you all & remain your loving Son and Brother. George.
October	Bedford Barracks	
20 th	Darracks	Dear Friends. Received your parcel quite safe - just in time to get
1885		rid of them, but I had a job - washed everything in salt water and soked (sic) them well. Received a letter from George Judge the
		other day, he is alwright (sic), he says it is harder work though, than it is in the depot. Shall not be able to come and meet you at
		the station. You can esly (sic) find your way to the barracks -
		straight up the road towards the town. When you get to Dent's carriage shop, turn to your left. You can't mistake it, Dent's
		carriage shop and the church is close to gether (sic), you can't miss your way, you only turn once - that is at Dent's shop. There
		is a woman, keeps a publick House there, that comes from
		Fenny. She is relation to the Warrens - him that works for Taylor the plumer (sic). She says you can come to tea there - not for the
		sake of the tea, but she would like to see you. She has a nice dorter (sic). I hope you will come. I must conclude and remain
	Bedford	your loving son.
November	Barracks	George Alfred Jones.
3 rd 1885		Dear Friends. Received your letter and Paper quite safe. Was
		glad to hear that you got William Souster to help you with your
		load from the Station. We are going to Colchester on Saturday next - so they say, so I shall not be able to come home before I
		go. Keep the papers till I write and let you know wether (sic) we go, but I think it is wright (sic) this time. We have a verry lot of
		wet wether (sic) hear. I don't know how you get on for water in your pond. Remember me to all inquiring Friends. I remain your
		loving son.
		George Alfred Jones.

November 10 th 1885	Colchester	Dear Friends. Have got to Colchester, as you see, feel rather lonely (sic) just at first, but I like it very much. It is a grate (sic) deal different to Bedford. Seen Arthur Thorn, was with him to night in the canteen. His brother is gone out to India with the last draft. His brother was in the Tilary (Artillary????), but Arthur, that I used to go to school with is in the Bedford Regiment. Can't say much a bout myself this time be-cause I am not settled down. I thought I had better wright (sic) to you to let you know that I was safe. Should like my watch hear (sic). Must conclude for this time, shall write again soon, so I remain your loving son Pt. 1525 George Alfred Jones D Company Bedford Regiment Colchester Camp Essex
November 26 th 1885	Colchester	Dear Friends. Received your letter and Papers quite safe, was glad to hear from you and Jim too, - it is a verry good Lightness (sic) of him, he can always take well in them clothes. I hope you will put it in my Album and keep it for me. I shall have mine taken as soon as I can next month. We have not much money this month. We were stoped (sic) for our gloves and new sticks and caps. I can get it taken in a large size, as big as them at the Gariboldi, you know, you seen them, for twelve and sixpence, with a large frame to boote (sic), but not colloured (sic). I shall see what he will take one painted for. We are going to have our Company taken some time, but I don't know when. When we do, I will send one home. I see there is some people dying at Bletchley. I can't say when I shall come home again - not 'till after Christmas. I am thinking a long way (off??), shall tell you when I think of coming shall come with Arthur Thorn perhaps. We are not dismissed yet, but we shan't be long. I think two of our chaps have got the Lance stripe, and one is in the drums. I could go in the drums - that is - as a bugler, they want a lot. I wish Father had sent me when he thought of it two or three years ago, I might have been something now. You must let Will come when he is old enough - best thing for him. George Alfred Jones.

Bletchley to Bedford and enjoyed myself and (????) along with George. I stopped the night and com(sic) backt day. I had my Photo took, I took one to George sent one to Selina and sent one to you from your affectionate sister Sarah xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
F.S. I Will Write Hiole flext unite.	Oct. 22 nd	to Bedford and enjoyed myself and (????) along with George. I stopped the night and com(sic) backt day. I had my Photo took, I took one to George sent one to Selina and sent one to you from your affectionate sister Sarah