

1886

All letters are from George Alfred Jones

<p>March 16 1886</p>	<p>Colchester Camp</p>	<p>Dear Friends. Received the parcel yesterday. I did not miss them, but I daresay that I should have done in a day or two. I stoped (sic) at Bedford all Saturday night, and went away in the morning, London way, got out at St. Pancras station - went to Liverpool St. station. Had two hours to stop at Liverpool St. I got in with some of our chaps on the way. Seen one at Bedford and went that way with him, or I should have went Cambridge way on Saturday. We went through Petticoat Lane, a rum shop. Did not see George - did not have time, he might have come and met me if I had known that I should go that way, but I did not know myself until I seen the chap at Bedford. I enjoyed myself wile (sic) I was at Mrs. Bartrams. I was dancing up till livon (sic) o'clock, went up to the Barracks and seen Dick Beer and all the old chums - they was very pleased to see me. Must conclude with best love to you all and remain your loving son and brother George Alf Jones</p>
<p>April 9 1886</p>	<p>Colchester Camp</p>	<p>Dear Loo. Received you's (sic) this morning, am very sorry that I should have forgot you but I thought I wrote to you last. I had a letter from Bill Souster yesterday, and one from George Judge. Bill tells me that Pollie Snoxell is at home now, he says that he is going up to London to see George Judge, so I wrote and told him that I am going up too, so I think that we shall be up there together if we can. They say we are going to shift next munth (sic). You think I am taken up with my girl, well I have not seen her, only once since last Sunday week, then I did not speak to her so I am not smiten (sic) much by her. As for flurting (sic) that is out of the question. I am not out now only about once a week. I suppose you judge me by your own experiences, is that not it? Well I can't say any more for myself so I think I will give out still remaining your ever loving brother George A Jones PS Just going for a bath</p>
<p>June 8 1886</p>	<p>Colchester Camp</p>	<p>Dear Loo. I am glad you have got a place at last, you could not get one when I was at home, you vixen. Ah well, it is a little better for the old people, I daresay now though it cost them something to get you out. I have had a nice little job for a fortnight, got eight pence a day extry (sic) - that was a half sovereign for the fortnight, shall send you five shillings of it for Mother. I shall be able to send you my photo next week I think, I should like to have yours. I suppose you will have it taken soon. I wish you could get me a collection of photos to hang over my cot. I will send home all I can get of our chaps, I shall send mine to Mrs Snoxell because I promised her one. Did not mother get a letter from me the other week? Ask Mother if she did not get one, in it I told her that I got that job that I told you about. If she has not, it, has been mislaid though - you know. I daresay you read them all. Have you got any time for reading?, because I have got a few novelettes that I can send you. I won't send them until you write again and tell me. I wondered who it was that had wrote to me, I knew that it was not Father's handwriting, but I soon solved the mistry (sic) by opening it and see for myself. We thought we was going to Portland in August but the people of Colchester are trying for to keep the Rigement hear (sic) for a nother year, that is because they think a lot of our Regt. I don't say it because I am in it but that looks something like it. By trying to keep us hear (sic) I was in hopes we might go - not because Portland would be any livelier (sic) than Colchester, for it is only a villige (sic) where they keep convicts - the town is five miles from the barracks, I think it is Waymouth (sic).</p>

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		<p>Tell Father I have broke the part that fits in the key of my watch, and also the little hand off - ask him how much it will be to put it wright (sic) again and tell me in your next letter. Must conclude now (because I am going out). With my best love to you and Well House, or the people in it and remain your loving brother Geo Alf Jones</p> <p>PS Tell Mother to put some buttons on my white shirts and send them to me for they will be so much cooler this summer.</p> <p>PS Remember me to the cook</p>

Undated	Colchester Camp	<p>Dear Loo. I sent you four papers the other day, I don't know wether (sic) you seen the little peace (sic) of writing on one of them, I told you that it was for mother only. I sent it to you to get it for her. I have bought a sowing (sic) machine, gave half-soverin (sic) for it, a box as well to keep it in and several other little things connecting with it. I should say I could get a pound for it if I was to advertise for it, I bought it off a chap, he was on the drink - but he is going to the taylor's (sic) shop so he won't want it any more. I am going to learn to work it myself if I can. He used to hearn (sic) a good lot of money with it, but it did not do him any good for he used to spend it almost before he got it. I gave him five shillings on it one night, he went down to the canteen with it and came back with three alf pence (sic) - so you can see what he is. I have great pleasure that I am on pay now - three pence a day extry (sic). We had a day's holady (sic) on Munday (sic), went to a feast - enjoyed myself immensely. Must conclude with my best love to you and all enquiring friends, so I remain yours our Loo. George Alfred Jones Corporal, D Company 1<sup>st</sup> Batt. Bedfordshire Regiment</p>
Undated	Colchester Camp	<p>Dear Loo. I supose (sic) you think I have forgotten you, but I must tell you that I have been writing to Pollie Snoxell, and she as (sic) put you in the background. I supose you think it strange, me writing to her. I will tell you all about it. I sent Mrs. Snoxell two of my photos, one for Pollie so she sent it on to her, and I soon had a letter back, have had two from her since. I wrote to you and have wrote to her twice. I shall keep it up if I can. I like Pollie verry (sic) much - make a nice little wife some day for some body, don't know who it may be - it might be such a thing [missing text]. I wrote a letter to Mother on Saturday, sent a couple of photos, sent one to Polly for keeping. They are going to send me theirs. I wish I could get yours, I want to get them so that I can look at them to remind me of school days. I am only a school boy now, keep going to school. We think of going to Portsmouth now - I don't supose (sic) we shall - though hope we do.</p> <p>Did I tell you about my sewing michine ? (sic). I don't think I did. I have got a nice little thing - making quite a tailor now. I am back at my job again on the fire brigade. My pay is two pound seven and six a munth (sic) now, that is not bad pay is it? I told Pollie that she was the only girl I gave my photo to, she says that she ought to be highly honoured, but if the truth was known I have got two or three on the go at Colchester. I have not got so many as she says. I have been for a walk with a girl on Sunday, she is a respectable girl, in service the same as yourself. I should feel so lonely if I did not have someone to talk to. I don't love her though , only as a sister. She said she would not go with</p>

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		<p>me if we was only friends, but I told her we had better part for good then - but she would not when I told her it would be better if I did not see her, for she seems a very loving girl, but I don't see anything to love in me - quite a plane (sic) looking fellow - There is no "is he not handsome" about me, only a common soldier. Ah well, I might be a proper soldier some day. I must give out my rubbish, I am obliged to give you some rubbish to fill out the letter. You don't tell your brother much about your sweetheart, I suppose (sic) he is a nice young man. Must conclude (because I have no more rubbish to tell you) and remain your loving brother</p> <p>Geo Alf Jones PS What do you think of the Essex crest?</p>
Undated	Bedford Depo(t)	<p>Dear Friends, They have sent me to the Depo(t), as you can see. I could not let you know - we had such short notice. I should have telegraphed from Bristol, but money would not permit.</p> <p>I past(sic) through Bletchley about nine - got in from Oxford about five past nine, - left for Bedford ten past. I met P. Sear &amp; Mr. Gardener on the station. Persey (sic) said he had just left you at Giltrows.</p> <p>You must let me know when the Feast is, - I may be home next Sunday. Ted Read is hear (sic), he is in the Regt. - gets his clothes out to morrow. It was him that spoke about the Feast, or I should not have known. Must close, - hoping to see you all soon &amp; remain you[r] loving son George</p> <p>Corporal G.A. Jones B Company Depo(t) Bedford Regiment Bedford.</p> <p><b>In John's handwriting : The above is George's address From your loving Father &amp; Mother J &amp; E.A. Jones</b></p>

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July 24 1886	Colchester Camp	<p>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 suppose (sic) it is the collour (sic) on our faces or we frighten the machines - which is it?</p> <p>I don't suppose (sic) we shall be hear (sic) after next munth (sic) an other rigiment (sic) is coming from Ireland on the 26<sup>th</sup> of next munth (sic) to relive (sic) us. We are all going to Bradford in Yorkshire now so I shall be about one hundred and fifty miles or more from home. We find a detachment at Lichfield, the chaps tell me it is a verry (sic) nice place. I got along with an old soldier the other day, and he told me all about it - plenty of girls, all woolen (sic) factories hear (sic), duced good pay they do, and a nice country, only one rigiment (sic) station with no cavalry to take them from us - have them all to ourselves. I wrote to tell Bill Souster this morning. I had a letter from him the other day, he told me he had seen you [illegible] about the Sunday girl. I will get her photo if I can and I will send it to you, but you must let me have it back. I don't mind sending a chap's to you to keep, but I want all the girls I can get over my cot, with mine in the middle of them all so that I shall be like B. Young in appearances, to look at, you know - get me some more then I will pick my wife out of them. Send me the cook's if you can get it. Bill told me that Ettie Kingham asked how <b>I</b> was, should like to see her, she must be quite a woman now. I did not treat her quite right. I think, though, what do I care - there is no girl that troubles my mind as yet. I sometimes think I should like to have Polly Snoxell for my wife, but I shall never see her and still shall see her all the wile (sic) if she sends her photo to me. I will send one of our chap's photos. I don't know what you will think of him, he is a soft looking card - not so good as Leany's. I send you a bit of my drawing - a few plays that as (sic) been at the theatre - I don't know what you may think of it. Must conclude (as room will not permit). With best love to you encluding (sic) Father and Mother and the children, and remain your loving brother</p> <p>Geo Alf Jones</p> <p>PS I will get you a lot of soldiers if you will get me a lot of girls</p> <p>GAJ and B. Young</p>
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<p>Undated (but probably between Oct 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup> - as letter mentions a year next week since Sarah's visit which was Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 1885)</p>	<p>Kempston Barracks Bedford</p>	<p>Dear Loo, I daresay you think that I have cut you altogether. I am shore (sic) I don't know wether (sic) it was you, or me, that wrote last, but I think it was you, - the girls said so when I was home, yes!, I was at home on Bletchley Feast Sunday &amp; Monday. I rode over on my iron horse, for you must know, that I have got a bycycle (sic). They - the old people I mean, are all right. I had a letter from Bill this morning, telling me that Aunt Fox is visiting them, so I am going to run over perhaps to day (sic) to see them. I hope you will forgive me for keeping you so long without a letter, but you know that I am a bad correspondent. We have a draft going out in December, but I don't know if I shall go yet, - it is not known who is going yet. It is just a year ago since Sarah came to see me, next week, Bedford Fair, and I am Orderly, just my luck!, - Always on some thing when there is a holiday. Our fellows when (went) a'nutting the other day, - poor me was on guard. They are going to a nutting party on Thursday, and I am on duty again (just my luck). Ah well, I shall be as well off the next day as them, I suppose (sic). Well Lou, Which one of us are going to make a start in the matrimonial market?, I think some of them young ones will begin before us two. I am a long way off yet, and my position is all right you know now for a married man, but I cannot find the fortunate or unfortunate one, I might say. Do you ever read those letters n the Daily Telegraph?, - some very good bits - the Matrimonial Agency I mean. I have followed them up for some time. I now close with my love to you, from your loving brother George Write soon</p>
<p>Undated</p>	<p>Kempston Barracks Bedford</p>	<p>Dear Loo, I suppose (sic) you think I am never going to write to you. I received your letter, - glad to hear that young Jim is getting on all right. There is some sports on in the Town &amp; I am orderly sergt. For the ensuing week. I have finished my work until ten tonight &amp; it is now three, so I think I will have a sleep, as I have been up ever since eight o'clock this morning. I must close now (as I am so sleepy). With best lve to you all. I remain your loving Brother &amp; Cousin Geo. Alf. Jones</p>