

On Active Service



**WITH THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

No 441507
Pte J. Fletcher
704 Coy.
14th Ban. Battalion
3rd Brigade
1st Ban. Division
The Front
France.

My dear wife
I got back to the next camp last night, none the worse of my first experience at the front. It is wonderful how cool a fellow feels up there, I have been more scared many a time when out on a salmon exploit. All the same I am glad to be back, where we don't hear the guns so much, and where we don't see any shells explode. I didn't sleep well last night, thinking of you all, I had a look at the picture, and I remembered how bright Nettie was when it was taken, and that I gave her a shake, because she wouldn't sit still. I hope she didn't remember it. I can't keep my eyes dry when I think of her. I haven't had a letter since coming to France, but I don't think any of the 53rd have, I hope there is no more bad

news when I do get one. Now dear try and
worry as little as possible about me, and try and
keep up for the children's sake, I know it is
hard to do, but remember, you are all they
have to look to. I wish I could take you in
my arms and comfort you in this terrible
affliction. I will not be greatly surprised
if I am sent back to the base, as some
of the men-coms, are talking about me being
dead, and saying I should not be here. I know
you would be glad if I am sent there
but don't get too elated about it, as that
is all I have to go by. Anyway I might
pull through alright, as there are some in
this Regt, who have been in and out the
trenches for 16 months and have never had a
scratch, on the other hand of course, some get
laid out the first day, let us hope for the
best, it can't last such a long time now, as
Austria seems to be about all in. I hear that
the 65th are either in England or going there soon
to Reinforce the 53rd if no Pringle will lose her
boy. As this is all the paper I have I will close now
and will write again, before our next turn at
the front. Your ever loving husband Jim