

Bexhill Observer 24th July, 1915.

"Sir. – As we are regular readers of your paper, the 'Observer,' we should very much like to tell you a few of our experiences, which we think might interest you and Bexhill people. We saw the piece E. Perry put in. He is in the same platoon as us, and the three of us who are writing this are residents of Bexhill. We all gave up our situations at the beginning of the War and enlisted, so we have done 11 months' hard training, and we all say we have never felt better in our lives. We are at our rest camp again now, and have done two more times in the trenches since you heard from Perry.

Well, if you want to know our history, here goes. Soon after we arrived in France we had our first taste of shell, three dropping about ten yards from our billets, nobody being hit. It was a sight worth seeing to watch all the women rush out and get their children together, and when they had done that they all made a dash for a big dug-out made for emergency. Soon after that we went in the trenches for the first time, and a chap who had been through the thickest of the fighting said we surprised him because we kept so cool under fire for the first time. They say self-praise is no recommendation, but I can assure you this is correct. At night time some of the Germans gave us a cornet solo; we could hear them quite plain, as we were only fifteen yards away, and I must say it wasn't so bad considering where it came from.

The next time we went in they gave us a bit hotter time. Fritz had got what we call his wind up; they also gave us a few shells, but we soon silenced them, our artillery hitting the mark every time. There was an old man, who used to live about a mile from our trenches, and one man per platoon used to go to his place at night and get beer. He got blown out of it the other morning, so that's ended our beer contract. (It does seem a pity, doesn't it?) The last turn we did was rather quiet, but they had found out where we got our water from, and played a machine gun on the place about every hour.

There is a cherry tree in front of our lines, and the other night some of us went out to try and get a few, but they sent up one of their coloured lights, so you can guess we had to get back in rather a hurry, and we were done out of our feed. Never mind, better luck next time. We will now close, wishing your paper every success.

Yours sincerely,

F. SCRASE

(formerly of E. Wickens and Sons, grocers, 25, Sackville-road),

F. NICHOLLS

(of Longley Bros.),

J. HARVEY

(Windsor-road)."