

West Sussex County Times 22nd May 1915 page 5d

“SUSSEX BY THE SEA.”

Mr. W. E. Dench, of 39a, West-street, Horsham, has this week received the following letter, written on Sunday, May 16th :—

Dear Mr. Dench,—At last I have found time to write you, and I hope you will excuse waiting, as we have had much to do. As a matter of fact both Private Gregory and I are very lucky to be able to write at all. First of all I wish to thank you very much for the flute you so kindly sent. Well, we have got three now altogether, and we have been cheering the boys up as we go along, but we still have several flute players, but cannot get fifes. We only received your one. Very many thanks. You might just awaken the boys up that another three flutes would go grand. I expect you have heard of our encounter with the Germans. Our old Sussex marched to the tunes of our flutes, and shortly after we made a flying smash at the Huns. Although we suffered, the Germans copped double. Our old Sussex boys gave them snuff, but their machine guns mainly did for us and we lost about 550. Well, I can tell you the boys were ready to jump over our trench and charge them directly the bombardment finished, and whilst they were waiting in our trench they sang “Good old Sussex by the Sea”:

You can tell them all
That we'll stand or fall
For Sussex by the Sea.

They did, too, willingly. Well, just a week home and we will be all right, but no hopes I am afraid. Just remind Horsham that we would like three more, if you will, please. Ever yours, DMR. BALLAM and PTE. GREGORY.