

Monday, 19th October 2021

Dear Diary,

Another fearful day in the trenches. I saw my best friend Jake die from a heart attack this morning. I am traumatized. I cannot believe that he died. Now I have no one to talk to, I'm so lost. I have been fighting for over a year now. I feel extorted. I thought that the war will make me a hero, but I only feel like a weak sheep in a herd. Just saw a deceased body looking my way. I don't really feel that scared anymore; I see this nearly every minute.

I wake up to the sounds of whizz-bangs. The explosions make my heart jump out of my chest! It comes so quietly and unexpectedly.... and then, BANG! You see a huge mushroom shaped cloud of smoke; it is so frightening! It feels like living hell here, I think even worse! It feels oppressing that you can get killed by a shell or a sniper any second! I want to get out this bloody place as fast as possible! I recently needed my head shaved because a colony infested my hair, it was a very unpleasant experience. The food here is all disgusting, even if I hadn't eaten for more than 3 days. Well, I guess it's better than nothing. The only thing I ate today was a slice of stale bread with a cup of bitterly cold coffee from yesterday. It makes me hallucinate about my mom's cottage pie with a cup of hot chocolate.

I immensely miss my comfy bed which I used to sleep in every night. My stomach is constantly rumbling. and I don't know what to do. I'm already used to the detestable smell of corpses everywhere, It's not as bad anymore. The only thing that bugs me the most is the rats. It's a vast problem here. They are constantly taking my food and making holes in my clothes. One of my friends Bob, just got a bullet in his head from one of the German soldiers. Trench foot is also a huge problem here. Since we are all fighting while standing in water, the water gets in the soldiers' boots and gives them Trench foot. I'm very happy that I am not one of the unlucky ones who got it. I don't know what else to say.

Ah! One more thing. If anyone finds this letter in the future. Just understand that we are going through an immensely hard time right now. So pray for us. I now understand that I made a huge mistake joining the army. I was so naïve that I believed all this foolish propaganda. I know that I will not listen to all this propaganda ever again.

Love,

Greg

By Danylo Kasyanchuk, 8L

