

DUBLIN CITY ARCHIVES

RDFA/109

Harold Barton Mansfield (1880-1916)

Royal Dublin Fusiliers Collection
at Dublin City Archives

Colm Birmingham, Dublin City Archives Intern
(August 2016)



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Collection Level Description

Identity Statement

Archive Reference	IE DCLA/RDFA/109
Title	Correspondence of Harold Mansfield 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers
Creation Dates	31 August 1916 -14 August 1920
Level of Description	Fonds
Extent & Medium	23 items
Creator(s)	Harold Barton Mansfield Eveleen Bardon

Administrative & Biographical History

Harold Barton Mansfield was born in Dublin in 1880. He emigrated to America in 1908 and is listed in the 1910 census as being resident in Los Angeles, California, and employed as a clerk by Tille Garatas Trust. Eveleen, born in 1881 in Dublin, joined him for a short period and they were married in California in 1909. She returned shortly afterwards, where she took up residence in her family home at 11 Grosvenor Sq., Rathmines, Co. Dublin.

Sometime between 1910 and 1916 Harold joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force. In 1916 he enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 10th Battalion. He was active on the Western Front, and experienced trench warfare at the Somme first hand, a number of his letters are written from the trenches. He was killed in action on the 13th November 1916, during the Battle Ancre (13th – 18th Nov. 1916). He is buried in Knightsbridge Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and child, Marjorie Mansfield (DOB 1916/1917).

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection of letters was donated to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association (RDFA) by Maurice Bryan, grand-nephew of Eveleen Bardon, wife of Harold Barton Mansfield. It was donated to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive via Tom Burke (chairman of RDFA), July 2016.

Content & Structure

Scope & Content	The collection contains a number of letters written by Harold Barton Mansfield to his wife, Eveleen Mansfield (nee Bardon), letters and a telegram Eveleen Mansfield received upon the death of her husband, a newspaper clipping and a collection of envelopes. The letters describe hardship of life in trenches, experience of the Irish soldiers serving in the British Army.
Arrangement	The collection is arranged chronologically.
Subject Keywords	Trench life, Somme, World War 1

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Language/Script of Material English

Physical Characteristics & Technical Requirements

The collection is made up predominately of handwritten letters.

Finding Aids

Descriptive List, with full transcriptions

Existence of copies

The collection has been fully digitised and uploaded to Dublin City Library and Archive Digital Repository digital.libraries.dublincity.ie

Allied Materials

Related Material

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association archive (IE DCLA/RDFA) is located at the Dublin City Archives

Control Elements

Archivists Note:

Colm Birmingham, (Dublin City Archives Intern August 2016) with additional editing of transcriptions by Finola Frawley (DCLA Library Assistant, Dec 2016)

Descriptive List: RDFA/109/01-23

Item Code: RDFA/109/001

Date: 31 August 1916

Description: Handwritten letter from Harold Mansfield to Effie Mansfield, from France discussing; that he is glad his letters finally arrived; doesn't mind if the baby is a boy or a girl; asks his wife to post him a particular belt; comments on the thunderstorms and heavy rain; remarks that he is living very well and enjoying himself, but realises that this will end once he is sent to the trenches; Notes that he can keep very clean; comments that there are also women in the camp who work very hard; comments that he misses his wife very much and dislikes being separated from her. Includes comment 'I am living very well in fact to well'

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Aug. 31st 1916, My darling Wife, Your 2 letters received today one written on Saturday and one on Sunday. I am glad you have received my letters at last. I have written you 3 or 4 times now. I am glad you have seen the doctor and that you are keeping well. I do not care dearest if it is a boy or a girl what ever pleases you best as you will have most to do with the little one but we can only leave it to fate. That belt I asked for was in the right hand bottom corner of your wardrobe, if not perhaps in my suit case, it has a brass [swivel] attached to it. That fellow Grant joined as up yesterday. We had heavy thunderstorms and very heavy rain yesterday and it was very oppressive. I am living very well in fact too well and expenses have been very high and we will have to cut down in future but we will be going up to the trenches in a few days which will break up our mess. I am able to keep very clean in this life quite a change from before. So the little one is beginning to show signs of life. I hope you won't suffer much pain sweetheart. You must be getting some size by now. Most of the labour in the fields is done by women over here, and everybody works very hard. I am feeling very fit except for my "hot" spells which are only relieved by hard work needless to say I miss you very very much and hate being parted from you. It would be absurd to let your house for 6 months, it would never pay you and you would be sorry after a month or so. Goodbye loved one and write often. Love to all. Your loving husband. Harold. Address quite correct

Item Code: RDFA/109/002

Date: 9 September 1916

Description: Handwritten letter from Harold Mansfield to Ellie Mansfield from France discussing; that he is now stationed in the trenches and finds it difficult to sleep; receives a cheque for £8; mentions that he misses his wife dearly; requests a copy of the Irish Times and a cake that would go nice with tea.

Size: 4pp

Transcription: I cannot make out the name of the house, is it [Coolderry]?

Sept 9. My darling wife, Still in the trenches and cannot sleep a wink tonight so take the opportunity of writing. I don't know why I cannot sleep as I don't get much of it here and have to be on duty at 3.a.m. I received a letter from my bankers with the £8 from the [Curragh] but the cheque was no good as it was on the bank at Newbridge and then account is closed there the school having gone down to Cork, so I returned it to them for correction they are very stupid people. I also heard from the Canadians and they state that they cannot pay me off until I report to [Shorncliffe?] to sign my discharge papers, how I am to do it from here is a puzzle. I have written back asked them to send them on to me. Met my old friend [Plumbly?] today of the Canadians who is now in the Bedfords and had tea with him in his dug out and quite a long chat. Alfie should also get one of those photos of mine also I think Mrs. Allen but I will send her address later. I suppose you are now tucked into your bed sleeping peacefully in your nice white nightie and cap and I only wish to God I was with you and feel your warm body in my arms. I miss you very much dearest one. I would like you to send me

on an Irish Times every once in a while also a cake which would go very well with tea. I find the men very inexperienced so far in fact we are rather an amateur outfit but will [kick] into shape before long. We have a few casualties already but not in my Coy. I have to censor the men's letters and some of them are very [amusing] nearly all of them write for cigarettes and cakes and put kisses in their letters so xxx. And asking for prayers to be said for them. I must stop now to go on duty received your delightful letter this morning. Very glad you have gone down to Greystones for a change. I am sure the change will do you good. Yes "Alberta" would look good to me now and I look back with great pleasure at the time spent there. I am sorry the baby is giving you so much trouble from within. He will probably be a football player when he grows up. I suppose you are too big in the tum to bathe now. It must have been very awkward being without your baggage. You can see what it is to rough it a bit. And now [...?] I must close up. I hope you will enjoy yourself. Love to all. Your loving husband Harold

Item Code: RDFA/109/003

Date: 17 September 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Ellie Mansfield discussing;

Took part in a bombing course, had a good time; comments that he met an old friend in another battalion; Worried that he does not have the correct address for his wife; an Irish division was stationed close by, but were transferred before he could meet them; spends hours thinking of their time spent in Greystones together; comments that he misses his wife very much and inquires as to whether she requires more money.

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Sunday 17th .My darling wife. I am at present on a bombing course where I was having a very nice time but we have been recalled back to our Battalion today and expect to move somewhere perhaps to a warmer spot. I have not heard from you for a few days but expect some letters are awaiting me back with my Coy. I met a Lieut in another Batt whom I used to know in L.A. The weather here although dry and fine has turned somewhat colder. I don't seem to have the name of the house you are staying in quite correct. write it in block letters so that I can understand it better. The Irish [forse] were about 4 miles from us in our last billets, but they have moved out for some training or I would have gone over and seen them but I may come across them again. I sit for hours sometimes thinking of you down at Greystones and cursing our luck that we are parted like this. I miss you terribly loved one and I know that it is very hard on you being without me at this period to look after you but please God it will all end some day. Write and let us know if you want money and don't be shy in asking for it. Good night beloved. I am at present sleeping on a tiled floor which is pretty hard. Your loving husband. Harold.

Item Code: RDFA/109/004

Date: 19 September 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Ellie Mansfield discussing;

Happy to have finally received his wife's letters; glad to hear that she is very healthy; had to march 2 days through heavy rain and mud, found it very hard going; believes that he will eventually arrive at the Somme; asks his wife to sort some things out for him in case he his ordered to go over the top; provides bank details and names and address of people who owe him money; letter is written from an old barn; complains that he is fed up with soldier life; comments on the happy times they spent together and that he sits for hours thinking of these happy memories; looks forward to his child growing up in a peaceful world.

Size: 4pp

Transcription: Sept. 19. My darling Wife, Received your ever welcome letter on return from the Bombing Course from which I was recalled and we are now on the move. Glad to hear that you are keeping so well, it is a great blessing that you are so healthy. We have had terrible rain the last 2 days and we had to march in it, it came right through my trench coat and through my [putters] and boots we were simply saturated. There is only one word that describes it and that is "Dastardly". I think that we will eventually end up at the Somme and there are a few things I want you to do in case I get knocked over (not that I feel that I will but who knows). My bankers are Sir J. Mc [Grign] & Co [Bert] 39 Panton Street, London W. You will get from there any monies due to me, and also put in for a pension to the right authorities. The Canadians also owe me money which they want me to call for which is impossible. Their address is Paymaster, 1st Canadian Division, Headquarters Shorncliffe Kent Eng. In reference to #77812 Corpl H. B. Mansfield, 7th Batt Canadian Inf. Don't forget [Blue] is to get his money at T. S. T & Co L. A. I should like you to wear mourning for a period of not less than 6 months. This may seem very morbid but I do not intend it to be so. I am writing this in an old farm building where I am billeted all alone, the old couple having gone to bed, and it is windy and raining outside. I feel in writing [...] I get very fed up with this life sometimes always moving, never settled anywhere, rain [heat], your [soul] not your own, and every once in a while facing death. How I long for your companionship and to feel you near me, the happiest days of my life have been spent with you my loved one, and my greatest joy is to sit and think over all our enjoyable times spent together. Please God we will be spared to spend the remainder of our life in love, peace and contentment never to be parted, that is my greatest wish. I am proud to know that some beloved woman will hold in her arms my pledge to the race, held my secret self, of my flesh and of my name, a thing which is to live on and perhaps profit by the sacrifice we men are taking to ensure the future peace of the world. (This is not quite original as I read something like it in a magazine once, but it applies to us). I received some cards from Alice from Greystones so I suppose mother has arrived down there and you have seen her. And now dear heart I must turn into bed as I have to be up at 5 oc in the morning to resume our march. I hope the weather is good where you are, it is turning cold here. I think you are wise not to bathe. And now Sweetheart I will bid you goodnight and god bless and keep you for me. With much love, Your loving husband, Harold.

Item Code: RDFA/109/005

Date: 5 October 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Ellie Mansfield discussing; Reports that he has been on the move for the past few days; does not want to spend another winter there; hopes to get wounded so he can be sent home; Discusses a problem involving Cecil; has included a clipping from a French newspaper with letter; comments that they have had lots of rain recently; Includes comment '...and the only this I am praying for is a nice little wound to get me home for the winter'.

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Oct 5th. B.E.F. My Darling Effie, Received your sweet letter and was glad to hear that you are keeping well. We have been moving the last few days and expect to be soon in it and the only thing I am praying for is a nice little wound to get me home for the winter. I do not want to stay out another winter in this accursed country, as you say I have done my bit and compared with the experience of others here I have [more] than done it. It was a bit of nerve [Muriel's] people invading you. I am sure you enjoyed it, it must be rather a come down to her people to have to give up house and home. You are quite right about Cecil and Muriel, they are doing themselves no good and lots of the "officers" in this Dept know them but believe me not one of them had ever a thought of marrying them or anyone else, and were just [.....ing] themselves or looking for something! I am very fond of Cecil and don't like to see her made a plaything of. She will probably wake up some

day. I suppose you are back again in Grosvenor Sq. You should find 2 or 3 letters of mine awaiting you there. I enclose you a picture out of a French paper which I think is the [...] or passion and desire. You will probably think it is indecent. We have had lots of rain and mud and had a train journey of 12 hours which was very cramped and miserable. And now dear love au revoir To say I want you would be superfluous as it is my [constant] thoughts. With love, Your loving husband, Harold

Item Code: RDFA/109/006

Date: 10 October 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Effie Mansfield discussing; Comments that he has not received a letter from his wife for over a week; hopes his wife has received the cheque, asks if she requires more money and he will send it; comments on two letters that he received, the details of which he would like kept to their letters; comments that he is almost out of writing paper, had to borrow these pages from a colleague; comments that he was in the trenches yesterday.

Size: 4pp

Transcription: Oct. 10 '16, My own darling, Your letter of the 4th just received. I was very glad to hear from you again as I had not a letter from you for nearly a week. Very sorry to learn of [Muriel's] trouble also Mr Burke it must have been a great blow to them. Glad you received the cheque alright let me know and I will send you some more. I am having £1.15.0 which are expenses I paid out on the [...] [Funera?!] sent to you. You need not mind sending on those socks at present as I have just received 2 fine pairs from [her], send her a photo and put my card into it [...] Mrs. J A Allen 1621. Shatto Street Los Angeles. I had 2 very good letters from [Blue]. He tells me that Mrs. ["Mead"] is absolutely on the job and even contracted the bad disease, but keep this to ourselves and don't let the others know. He says she is looking very tough. Poor [Austin Bylis] has gone back to the day business again and had to borrow money pretty freely to start he went broke and was stung very badly in the land business by unscrupulous men as I knew he would. Poor old Dick I wonder how she feel it. Poor darling, sorry to hear that you are looking pale, but I am sure more beautiful, with the look of motherhood coming into your eyes and I am sure the child when it comes will if possible bind us close together. Dear heart I want you to send me a writing pad with envelopes about the size of this paper, with good paper so that I can write on both sides of it. I am clean run out of paper and had to borrow this from Grant. I was up in the trenches yesterday they are pretty wet and muddy but not too bad. I am quite sure you are fed up with your people and surroundings but some day sweetheart we will have our own little nest and be dependant on no one. And now darling I will close. Take [care] of yourself and get anything you want for your comfort. With much love, Your loving husband, Harold

Item Code: RDFA/109/007

Date: 19 October 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Effie Mansfield discussing; very happy to receive letters, especially one including a picture of Greystones; just back from the trenches; enquires does she need more money; comments that the weather is very poor;

Size: 7pp

Transcription: Oct 19, My darling Effie, Received your 2 letters dated Oct 11 and 12. One enclosing my commission papers and one with the photos taken at Greystones which I was delighted to receive. I have not written to you lately as we have had a long spell in the trenches in one of the worst spots on the line and lost some men including a few officers. Glad you got the cheque alright,

have the Canadians ceased to send you any more money? Thanks very much for the boots they arrived today. I hope that the excessive kicking in your tummy does not mean that there are 2 concealed there having a struggle with one another. I am sure it must be a very funny [censation]. Did not the doctor tell you to go and see him this month? I am sorry dear one if you felt hurt about me writing to Alice about the pyjamas but I thought she might have some at home. I have not received the pair you stated you are sending but expect them in a day or 2. Do you know who I met yesterday? Harry [Meyers?] looking as fit as a fiddler. He is going to try and see me again. I am sure Cecil is much improved with her hair up. It was about time. I think you flatter me darling when you say no women could have a better husband than me. God knows I try and be the best to you, and would not cause hurt to a hair of your head. I was very sorry to hear of you receiving those two [fights] you must be careful loved one and let all the old cats and dogs fight it out and don't worry about them. How I wish I was with you to protect you in this your trying time.

I am afraid the brother of Annie Blackadder is the one we saw off in the train. It has turned very wet and cold here and I have contracted a cold the first for a long while and I feel very miserable. That fellow Grant is the most unpopular man in this Regt and nobody wants him. He is very greedy and selfish in fact some of the officers in this Batt are very common and quite a revelation to me as I have met far better men in the ranks. You are wise to start [getting] the baby kit together while you are in health and strength and after you see the Dr you ought to make arrangements at the nursing home to book a room for the time you may expect the infant to appear. I would like a woollen sleeping cap something the same as we were looking at in Jeffrey's one day [,] also if you would send me a tin of Gold flake once a week[.] last time in the trench our general was wounded very badly which was quite a loss. During our stay in the trenches I never had more than 4 hours sleep per day which wears one out. Between you and Alice send off my photos to all people who should get them. Did you ever have the photos developed which were in the camera when I left? There were 6 in it which we took in the back garden. Get them finished off and let me see them. Get a few taken of you with the camera and let me see how you look. We expect very soon to be in one of the hottest action in the line and I hope to come through quite safe. I will send you on a cheque on the [beginning] of next month. Take great care of yourself my loved one and God keep you from all harm. Your ever loving husband. Harold Receive papers OK

Item Code: RDFA/109/008

Date: 20 October 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Ellie Mansfield discussing; Grateful for parcel containing socks and pyjamas; comments that it is very cold but the sun is shining today; expects to be moved to the trenches soon, from where he will not be able to send letters; mentions that Redmond is angry that they are not part of the Irish [...]

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Oct 20, My Darling Effie. Received your letter and parcel today containing pyjamas and socks for which many thanks. The weather here has turned very cold but today the sun is shining though wet under foot. I return you herewith my commission papers having finished with same which kindly keep for me. I am glad to hear that little Richard has ceased his kicking and turbulent methods and hope that you will now get more rest. My cold seems much better today and I hope will soon blow over. We expect to leave here very soon and may probably be in a very hot part of the line so that my letters may be few until I come out. I see Mr Redmond is kicking up a row because we are in the [Land?] Division and not with the Irish Divan now love I am going to have a sleep. So au revoir with love. Your loving husband, Harold

Item Code: RDFA/109/009

Date: 23 October 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Ellie Mansfield discussing; Received pyjamas but hasn't worn them yet; asks Ellie to clear up a payment issue; Glad to have received new writing paper; has contracted trench fever; notes that it is very cold, damp and frosty; has been removed from duty;
Size: 2pp

Transcription: Oct. 23, My darling Wife, Received your letter dated 17th inst. Yes sweetheart I received the pyjamas but have not tried them as yet. I am surprised at the Canadians still sending you in the money. I think that you had better write to the Seperation Dept Canadians 7 Millbank London and tell them that I (77812 Copl H Mansfield 7 Batt) have now received a commission in the British army but have not received my discharge from the Canadians as yet. Do not return any money as it can if necessary be deducted from my pay. Thanks very much for the writing pad on which I am writing now. I have been very ill lately with trench fever and last night my temperature was 101.8 and I was feeling all [in]. I am trying to stick it out and keep away from hospital, the weather here is very bad, cold, damp and frosty. We are in huts which are not too warm. I am off all duty at present and keeping myself warm as I can. We are in a very hot part of the line and I see hundreds of German prisoners. I do not know who "[...] is that you say [Lizzie] met and would come around and nurse the baby." You must be causing quite a sensation now and I suppose your increased [girth] throws the casting shadows of the coming event which cannot be now concealed. I suppose you are hardly aware that you show as much as you do. I believe it is often the case. And now dear love good night with love. Your beloved husband, Harold.

Item Code: RDFA/109/010

Date: 25 October 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Ellie Mansfield discussing; Comments that during his time in the trenches it was impossible to send letters; asks if she visits the hospital alone or is accompanied; comments that his living conditions are sometimes too terrible to describe to his wife; a sea of mud all around, comments that everyone around him has a cold and are miserable; hopes to get wounded so he can be shipped back home; Includes comment 'I wish to God I could get a wound that would bring me back to "Blighty" where I could see your dear face again'

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Oct 25th '16, My darling Wife, Received your letter of 18th just today in which you state you had not heard from me for some time, that was the time we were in the line and owing to conditions it was impossible to get letters out but I have written several letters to you since. You know dear one I write to you on every available occasion and would on no account cause you any anxiety. I am glad to hear that you are keeping as well and fixing up everything for the January affair. Will this Mrs Kennedy be in the hospital with you or does she come after you come out of there? I am feeling much better but still a little weak, and have now got the cramps and [diss....] which I don't like, but the weather conditions are something too terrible to describe, we live in seas of mud and the rain has been something awful, everything around me is damp and soggy and everybody has a cold and feels miserable. I hope we change from here soon. That was the first I heard of poor [...] being killed, he had a very short [journey] of it. Sent on that photo again to Mrs Allen and put no writing in the outside. Her address is 1621 Shatto Street L.A. I wish to God I could get a wound that would bring me back to 'Blightly' where I could see you dear face again. I look with dread through the winter here again. Goodnight my beloved and God give you peace and comfort. Your loving husband. Harold.

Item Code: RDFA/109/011

Date: 28 October 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Ellie Mansfield discussing; Sorry to hear of [...] being killed; condition has improved; weather is awful, very muddy conditions; lies awake at night thinking of his wife; has enclosed a cheque, which he advises to save if she can; new officers have joined the battalion, one of them was stationed in Portobello during the Rising; pyjamas fitted alright, but very high quality; notes that it is bright today; Includes comment '...we are in a rotten part of the country where the mud is [very] deep, you would wonder how man could live under such conditions', 'The Sun has come out and is shining today a little which makes life a little pleasant but otherwise its Hell'

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Oct 28 1916, My darling wife, Received your letter in which you say that Joe is [returning] for leave. I am sure you all especially your mother will be very glad to see him again. I had a letter from young Dorothy Mc[Conn....] from L.A. saying that they were all stopping down at the beach for the summer. I am feeling better now but the weather is something and we are in a rotten part of the country where the mud is very deep. You would wonder how men could live under such conditions. I lie awake at night thinking of you in bed lying between nice sheets and I crave to be with you. I enclose you a cheque for £4 which may be useful to you, save it if you have nothing to buy with it. Some new officers have joined the Batt. One of them being young Wilson who was a friend of Georges and was up in [Portobello?] during the Rising. Those pyjamas fitted alright but they were not of a high class quality, but good enough for out here, but not the kind that I would like to wear in bed with your 'ladyship'. I must get a real nice pair when I get home again. I have not heard much news from [...] lately. I suppose that they are all well. The sun has come out and is shining today a little which makes life a little pleasanter but otherwise it is Hell. Send me on a little book or magazine. And now love Goodnight and take [care] of yourself during the coming month for my sake. Your loving husband. Harold.

Item Code: RDFA/109/012

Date: 29 October 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Effie Mansfield discussing; Received a long letter from Effie that he enjoyed reading; enquires what shape she is in that she thinks she will have a girl; thinks suggested name sounds too Jewish; notes that the Canadians have written to him; sorry to hear that the photos never arrived and requests that they be sent again; sorry to hear that his wife cannot sleep; feels much better and managed to take a bath.

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Oct 29, My darling one, Your nice long letter of the 24th arrived this morning when I was in bed and I read it with great gusto. What shape are you that you think it will be a girl, are you swelled out in front or up high near the breasts. I do wish I could see you in your present condition, I am afraid I would laugh at you dear one and make you annoyed. Glad to hear that Joe is looking fit, it was very fortunate that he met Alfie it must have been a happy reunion. It is very good of Douglas giving Cecil £18 per annum for dress he is a good little fellow. By the way what name did we hit upon if it should be a girl. I think you said Roselind, but I think dearie that it is too Jewish and would develop into Rosie which would be a calamity I think, but I leave it to yourself to hit on a nice one. The Canadians have written me about my discharge and I will drop them a line about sending you the money. I hope to goodness it is not twins this time sweetheart, and if this time it is not a boy as you say our next effort may be one please God. I am glad you hear such good accounts of the Doctor, it is a great thing to have a good man and I am sure he will pull you through the affair in good style. I am delighted to hear that you are keeping so well. [...] [Myers] is not on the staff he is just [carrying] on his duties on the A.S.C. I was sorry to hear that those photos came back. You had

better send them on again and just put my card inside. could you not get a snapshot taken of you with my old camera and send it on to me and let me see how you look. As regards promotion dear heart! the only promotion I want is from here back to Dublin as quick as I can get it. Did Johnny O'Rourke get home for the birth of his baby? He has a [...] of a job and is as safe as if he was in Rathmines. I think you had better go and see the Doctor again. It is better to be on the safe side and it will cost no money to do so. I sent you on a cheque yesterday which I hope reach you quite safe. I am sorry to hear that you do not sleep too well loved one, if I was only there I would soon make you sleep with my soothing influence. I am feeling much better today and took a bath[,] tomorrow we will move up into the line, we are in the place Joe mentioned. And now darling I think I have exhausted all I have to tell you. Good night beloved. Ever your own loving husband. Harold

Item Code: RDFA/109/013

Date: 6 November 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Effie Mansfield discussing; Life in the trenches; has not washed for over two days, hand and clothes covered in mud, embarrassed by appearance; attempts to cheer Effie up, says he understands the difficulty she is currently experiencing; requests food from Effie, fed up with the scheme of things; tells Effie to keep the photos till after the war; will request leave when the time is right, hopes to get it; says he is miserable without Effie

Includes comment '...without you dear one I am miserable'

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Nov 6 1916. My darling loved one, I received your 2 letters dated 27 & 30 oct also the sketch and a tin of cigarettes for which many thanks. I am writing this in the trenches and I do not know if it will reach you. We are having a Hell of a time and I have not washed or shaved for over 2 days owing to lack of water and as I write this my hands are caked with mud and my clothes are a sight. I note by the tone of your last letter that you seem depressed, cheer up dear one I know it is very hard on you being left like this and no one feels it more than I do. I only wish to God I could be with you. Yes darling. I understand all about the nursing home business now and am very pleased to hear that you are keeping well and healthy. It is a great relief to me that you are so. I receive the sleeping cap from Alice. I am sorry you are having such bad weather at home it is rotten for you not being able to get out. No Darling I want no food. I get plenty to eat and all kinds of [rum] as I have the job of giving it out. I would like a few nuts and raisins if you can get them. I am feeling alright now but very much fed up with the whole scheme of things. You had better keep those photos until after the war when we can send them. As regards leave I will make a stab for that when the time comes it would be beautiful if I could get it. I would love to have you in my arms now, without you dear I am miserable. Your loving husband. Harold.

Item Code: RDFA/109/014

Date: 8 November 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Effie Mansfield discussing; Comments that he has left the trenches; disappointed with condition of sleeping quarters; received a large glass of rum on arrival, which he was very pleased with; asks Effie to address all letters to Royal Dub Fusiliers, as he is worried her letters will not reach him, believes the PO to be inefficient; asks Effie to send him his canvas shoes as he would like something else to wear on his feet; has enclosed a small voucher so Effie can buy herself a tea;

Size: 2pp

Transcription: Nov. 8 My darling Wife, Just received your letter of the 1st inst. We are out of the trenches where we had a very unpleasant time, and the day we came out it rained like mad with a very strong wind. We were the most miserable looking objects just like drowned rats when we arrived at our billets which are a collection of canvas covered huts with mud floors. You need not get me that [woollen] sweater as I got a very good one from the Q. M. Stores. I took a very good dose of rum when we got in and went to bed feeling very merry and took my mind off my miserable conditions. You had better address my letters 10th Royal Dub Fus, as to R.D.F. is rather vague and they might be liable to go to the R.M.F or R.W.F they are not very particular in the P.O. department. No, that leather [overcoat] would not be of any use to me here with the officers clothes, but you might send me on those canvas shoes I brought back from the Curragh. Get laces for them also another pair of inside soles same as I always use for my boots size 8. It is a great relief to get your feet into shoes for a change. I enclose you a P.O. for 2/6 which I 'changed' off a man in my platoon, which you can buy yourself a tea with. No darling! you are not big expense to me, it is only a pleasure to give you money I only wish that I could surround you with [luxuries] and make you very happy because I love you so well and you are all in life to me. God bless you sweetheart. Glad when that baby is well. Your loving husband. Harold.

Item Code: RDFA/109/015

Date: 12 November 1916

Description: Letter from Harold Mansfield to Effie Mansfield discussing; Advises Effie to go and see the doctor; hopes Joe will not get into trouble for overstaying his leave; hopes wooden packet will arrive within the next day or two; expects to be part of a large manoeuvre in the coming days; not sure if he will survive or not, hopes to end up in a hospital in England; Size: 2pp

Transcription: Nov. 12 1916, My Darling Wife, Receive your loving letter of the 6th, sorry to hear that you are not feeling so well. I think that you had better go and see the doctor, because it is important that he should know the history of your case. I sincerely hope that Joe will get into no trouble for overstaying his leave, it's a pretty risky thing to do. You certainly must look very broad and bulky now Majorie is quite a nice name but I will leave that to you. I am sorry Mrs Whelan annoyed you I think that he is rather vulgar. I have not received the woolen jacket as yet it may arrive in a day or two. I am afraid what Lissie heard is not quite true, we are not going out for a rest at present, in fact in a day or 2 we expect to be in a very big scrap and whether I come out or not will be the Will of God, perhaps I may be in a hospital in England inside 4 or 5 days. I hope so. I have nothing more to say darling one, only that I am very well and hope to see you soon. God bless you my darling love, Your loving husband. Harold

Item Code: RDFA/109/016

Date: c. July 1916

Description: Tiny newspaper clipping from *The Daily Mail* with advertisement for map of Beaumont-Hamel area showing British attack, and list of Naval appointments on reverse. Size: 2pp

Item Code: RDFA/109/017

Date: 21 November 1916

Description: Letter from Charles W. Grant to Effie Mansfield discussing;

the loss of Harold Mansfield, who died on the 13th November; the entire battalion sends their condolences; Harold was very popular with all the men and officers in the battalion.

Size: 1p

Transcription: British Expeditionary Force, France, 21st November, 1916, Dear Mrs Mansfield, I am writing on behalf of the officers of B. Coy 10 R.D.F to sympathise with you on the loss of your husband. He was killed whilst leading his platoon in action during the great attack on Monday the 13th inst., Harold Mansfield was greatly admired by the officers and men in the Battln. and his loss is felt very much by all ranks. We all join together in tendering to you our deepest sympathy in the loss you have sustained. As for myself I knew him many years, back to Yeomanry days, and always found in him a true friend and gallant comrade. I am Yours very sincerely, Charles W Grant

Item Code: RDFA/109/018

Date: 28 November 1916

Description: Letter from R. Boyd to Effie Mansfield discussing; Receipt of letter 21st November; a letter has already been sent out and should reach you soon; wants to pass on his condolences on the loss of her husband.

Size: 1p

Transcription: In the Filed, Nov 28th 1916, To Mrs. Mansfield. Madam, I have been instructed by the commanding officer to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., and to inform you that he has already written you full particulars regarding the death of your husband. Doubtless you have received his letter by now. As one of his fellow officers may I be permitted to add my tribute to his noble gallantry and to tender you my sincerest sympathies on your great loss, which is shared by every officer and man in the Battalion.

I have the honour to be, Madam, Your obedient servant, R Boyd, 2nd Lt. Asst. Adjutant
10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Item Code: RDFA/109/019

Date: 30 November 1916

Description: Letter from S.A.I. [...] to Effie Mansfield discussing; The death of Harold Mansfield; he buried Harold along with his companions in Knightsbridge Cemetery at the edge of the battlefield.

Size: 2pp

Transcription: 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 190th Brigade, 63 Division, Nov. 30th 1916, Mrs. Mansfield, Dear Madam, Will you kindly accept my deepest sympathy in your terrible loss of your dear husband. I only knew him for a short time, as I only lately joined the Battalion, but short and all as was the time, I had come to a very high appreciation of your husband. In the charge he was killed right up near the German wire. Thank God! When his death did come it was such a beautiful one. Leading on his men in a charge like a very gallant gentleman. His death was painless and instantaneous. I could not wish for a sweeter death for anyone than the glorious end of your dear husband. We all miss the old war horse as we called him among ourselves and it will be hard to fill his place. God rest his soul; and may the sweet Jesus who died for all mankind have mercy on his soul. I buried him with other Dublin officers in Knightsbridge Cemetery on the edge of the battlefield. Believe me, Dear Madam

Yours faithfully S.A.L. Thornton, Senior R.C. Chaplain, 63[?]^r Division

Item Code: RDFA/109/020

Date: [...] December 1916

Description: Telegram from Keeper of the Privy Purse to Effie Mansfield discussing;
A message of condolence from the King and Queen

Size: 1p

Transcription: Palace of HMS. Buckingham To: Mrs H B Mansfield, 11 Grosvenor Sq., Rathmines Dublin. The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the army have sustained by the death of your husband in the service of his country their majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow. Keeper of the Privy Purse.

Item Code: RDFA/109/021

Date: N/D

Description: File containing four small envelopes. 'Telegram' envelope contains a tiny card with inscription: "Harold B. Mansfield, 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers."

Size: 4 items

Item Code: RDFA/109/022

Date: 14 august 1920

Description: Letter from office of Director General of Awards to Effie Mansfield regarding an increase in her 'Alternative' war pension to £225.

Size: 1p

Transcription: Aug 14th 1920, Madam, I am directed to inform you that your alternative pension has been re-assessed under the Royal Warrant of 2nd July 1920 and to state that you have now been awarded an increased Alternative Pension under the Warrant of £225 a year with effect from 1st April 1920. This award, which does not carry war bonus, is in lieu of the award of Alternative Pension of which you are already in receipt. The necessary instructions have been issued to the Assistant Paymaster General, Paymaster General's Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1., to whom application should be made on the enclosed form. In conformity with the provisions of the Royal Warrant of 1920 the award now notified is liable to re-adjustment after 31st March 1923, according to the increase or decrease in the cost of living. I am, madam, Your Obedient Servant, [...] For Director General of Awards, Mrs. E. M. Mansfield, 11 Grosvenor Square, Dublin

Item Code: RDFA/109/023

Date: [...]

Description: Envelope addressed to; Scottish Union & Natl. Insce. Co., 58 Howard Street, Belfast; Marked 'Private papers'