Dear Ma,

Just a line to let you know that I am still quite alright although the climate is very trying about here. It is baking hot all day long and cold at night. I have not heard from anyone since I have been here but expect to soon, and then they will all come in a heap together I expect.

Never mind I shall be as happy as a sandboy when I hear from good old home. Don't think that I am homesick will you but I should just like to drop in and see you all and for a nice cup of tea I would give a quid.

Hope all at home are well and the "boys" are enjoying their holidays and having fine weather. This would be a fine place in Peace time but it is a bit dry and water is not very plentiful. I had a bathe this morning the first wash since I have been out here. Tell Fanny Morris that Charlie is with me and he is quite alright. I have just had a drink of tea that he made. It did go down good.

Anyone at home must excuse me if they don't hear from me. If they knew the circumstances they would not keep expecting letters. Tell them all that I think just as much about them if I do not write.

Is the miniature range and V.T.C. progressing. I expect Dad is still very busy with both. Give my love to Grandma and Grandpa, Aunt Kate and all the lot of them. Don't forget your little boy when you are writing, to send him something as there are no tuck shops out here. They have given us a few \_\_\_\_\_ [?] PS sorry to say that Dolf has been wounded but not serious.

Dolf, Adolphus Ballard, was in fact killed in the attack which began at 4.45pm on 12<sup>th</sup> August. In a later letter, George says that he asked an officer and was told that Dolf was wounded, but goes on to conclude that he was killed in the first attack on 12<sup>th</sup>.