

A Message From Codford

"Guineas To Gooseberries" On The Allies

Writing from Codford, where the 3/6th (Rochdale) Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers is now undergoing training, "Anzac" says: "This part of the country is beautiful, but its condition under foot is rather bad at present, mostly on account of the heavy rainstorms we have had recently. We get very little route marching, as we are now going in for the right things, which are bayonet fighting, bomb-throwing, trench digging, and other matters all of which are necessary in actual warfare.

We have some fine tutors in our own lads from Rochdale, all of whom have returned wounded from the Dardanelles. They are attached to the 3/6th Battalion at present. What they don't know about fighting is not worth knowing, for they have all been through the mill.

Referring to "the lads in Rochdale" who have not yet enlisted, "Anzac" adds: "Now, boys, I want you to roll up in thousands, but don't forget to come in khaki. It will be a grand match, we are the favourites and we have a good referee in Kitchener. We will win hands down - in fact it's guineas to gooseberries on the Allies. So don't miss it.

Rochdale Observer, Rochdale, Great Manchester, 22 January 1916