

MS 336

A4182 Papers of Frederick Dudley Samuel, CBE, DSO (1877-1951)

Letter from Samuel to his sister-in-law, Bessie, 1 Aug 1914, with two pen and ink sketches on the front page, one is of a soldier in uniform with a pistol in one hand and a sword in the other, next to the figure of a young woman with an angry look on her face.

“I scarcely know how to answer your letter for if you find a flotilla of destroyers a revolting sight, what will you regard me as, who thirsts for ‘bloood’. I not sure whose blood - Hungarian, Czech, Bavarian, Herzogovinian, Bohemian, German [f.1v] Dalmatian, Bohemian, etc., etc., etc., I want, I rather fancy it is that of certain members of the Liberal party here, who are idealists and forget human nature and what a beastly thing it is, and who have so philosophised that now we ourselves are too weak to avert war.

Well now for your question. I’m afraid there is not the slightest chance of your getting to Chambray. The situation is extremely bad and France is I fear sure to be involved in the war and I fear very much we may also be involved. The outlook is dreadful and I feel very anxious.

I expect my battalion will be mobilized, it will be very hard on all the wives and families.

I hope you are all fit and [f.2r] having a nice time, we have not as I have been working hard to get my battalion ready if necessary, which I pray it will not be.

Dorothy is much better and sends you all her love, she is off to Bourton.”