

A Soldier's Friend

2. Goodbye!

by Megan Rix



Extract from Chapter 2

'I don't want anyone seeing me off,' Oliver said firmly. 'I'll have Patrick and the others with me so it's not like I'm heading out to the Western Front alone or with strangers.'

'What is the Western Front exactly?' Lizzie asked Oliver. It was talked about all the time, but not marked on the map at school.

'It's the thin strip of land between Germany, France and Belgium that we're trying to hold, to stop the Germans from making their way through Belgium and into France . . . But you two don't need to worry about that. Now there's one thing I'd like to do before I leave . . .'

'What's that?' Arthur asked him.

'Well, I reckon there won't be much time for football at the front – wouldn't be surprised if there's none at all. So, one last very quick game, before I go?'

He looked at Arthur and Lizzie.

'Course,' Lizzie said.

'Good idea,' said Arthur. 'Take care and come home soon,' Mrs Jenson said as she kissed Oliver on the cheek.

'I will. Don't worry about me.'

