

'The soldier' 'If I should die...' - final draft.

King's College, Cambridge. The Papers of Rupert Chawner Brooke. RCB/V/1 f.17

~~'HOOD BATAILLON,~~
~~2nd NAVAL BRIGADE,~~
(5) ~~BLADNFORD,~~
~~DORSET.~~

The Soldier.

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England
given,
Her sights and sounds; Dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.'