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## Touching letters from WW2 soldier to his pacifist brother

One was a pacifist whose principles prevented him fighting in the Second World War, the other signed up took part in the gruelling campaigns to push the Germans out of North Africa and then Italy. Now, letters between two brothers have emerged, almost 70 years after the conflict ended. The correspondence was sent from Douglas Dover, serving in the Royal Army Service Corps, to his older brother Clarence, who had joined the Friends Ambulance Unit, a Quaker-run organisation with whom he was stationed in China.

The letters show the closeness of the pair, despite their different beliefs. Douglas, a driver, recounts his experiences in the heat of Africa coming under attack from the Germans, and then as his unit advances through Italy." The letters continue until May 1946, when Douglas was about to return to Nottingham again. The letters were found by Clarence's daughter June Copley, 61, from Beeston, Nottinghamshire.

She said: "I am really proud of my dad for refusing to fight. I could not have done that at the age of 20. We never quite knew what his family's reaction was at the time but I have a letter from his mother in which she said she was standing by him. My father did not talk about it much. In some ways, I think he was braver not to fight because of the pressure that was on him."

**See: Chocolate Soldier. The Story of a Conchie by Hazel Barker.**

**Story based on Clarence Dover during World War Two.**