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dogs but did not say
how the hude and groom
took it.

I promised Jean a
photograph last winter when
I had them taken but
never gave it to her as
it was to be a trade.
I am not awfully keen
about giving her one
but it was really promised
and perhaps my word
should be kept. I had one
or two extra one somewhere
about my room or study.
If you can find it and
she begs at you let her
have one but I would
certainly not order any
specially.

The Princess Patricia
battalion has already had


17. Jan 15.
Woodborough Wilts



My dear Alice

I was glad to get
your letter written on
Christmas Eve. You will
have already heard how
I put in Christmas Day
and that we really had
a congenial and enjoyable
dinner just among ourselves.
Am glad that the family
party went off well. How
much more fun they are
now than they used to
be with all the other
relations present.

How did Ibb take the
reception at the station,
Jones told me about the



a taste of fighting and has
lost quite a few officers and
men. Just how many I don't
know as the English papers
are apparently not to be
furnished with the Canadian
casualty lists.

It seems that Nancy
is playing two strings to her
bow for all she is worth
as young Scandrett has
read parts of her letters
to the others and she is
certainly running after
him more than a little.
I did not think much
of the London officers of
the 18th Battalion with
the exception of Gordon

Ingram and Milligan but
perhaps the best I saw in
the paper was not a
correct one.


I had a letter from
Delia a long time ago in
which she said she was
sending me some cigarettes
but they did not come.
I suppose like many other
parcels they went to the
wrong man and he was
not honest enough to
hand them back to the
post office people. She
and Alfie Clare have
been pretty thick ever
since last spring and
it might be serious
though I have no way

house partially responsible,
though why I should
stand all the real hardships
of the plains and more
or less succumb when
back in semi civilization
is more than I can say.

It is good of Ethel
Hesperer to knit something
for me and I shall
appreciate getting it but
she will have to hurry
up. The general was
here this week and
practically announced that
we go abroad on
February the fourth
which is only a little
over two weeks away
that is the best news



of doing more than guess
I would like to see
either Ethel Hesperer and
Jenks Hobbs for about
five minutes and have
a good laugh, at certain
times a person of their
sort is a most acceptable
visitor. Have been laid
up for a couple of
days with grippe and
remained in the house
pretty well and have
now gotten rid of the
worst of it. Think the
change from tent to



we have heard for a long
time and I hope the date
will be adhered to. The
only thing that may upset
this plan is the condition
of our horses. They are
really in a shocking bad
way with mud fever and
racked heels. If we have
to wait until they get into
shape will be delayed but
I expect they will give us
others to replace the worst
rather than have the
plans upset.

They are leaving four

battalions of the infantry
of this contingent behind
and I suppose they will
be joined by the second
Contingent when it arrives.

I had a card today
from Hyla Betts who
has now transferred into
the Royal Engineers.

He is now at Boulogne
in charge of the R. E.
railway stores there. He
won't see much fighting
at a job of that sort
but may later get
transferred to something
better. I suppose the
occupants of N. E. Corner
of Wilham and Queens
will now dilate upon

I tried to connect with
Mrs. Betts on Saturday
in London and got her
boarding house address but
was told on going there
that she had gone to
Southampton the day previous.
I could not get any other
information so do not know
if she was sailing from
there or not. This is the
third time that I have
missed her. Have not
heard from Hyla for a
considerable time but may
get a line at any time.

I had another note
from Mrs. Allport yesterday
enclosing a flint and
steel lighter which will
come in useful. She is



that he (even though very
much in earnest) cannot appear
as anything but a loafer and
naturally a man in this
position can neither be
respected by the men or
person gratified with the officers.

I also heard from Mr.
Almond that Hurler is on
the contingent somewhere
as a signaller. It seems
that a tremendous effort
was made to force him
on as a chaplain but
some of those who knew
his failings threatened
to resign if he was appointed
as such and the matter
was then dropped.



good enough to remind
 me again of her upper
 re worms etc. I also had
 a brief note from Mrs
 Hayes asking for my
 address etc. He is apparently
 going to come over in
 the second or third
 contingents just which,
 he does not state very
 clearly.

As there is nothing
 more to write about
 will come to a close.
 Best love
 your devoted son
 Wood

P. S. It did not rain at
all today.