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Copied

The field
17/6/16.

Dear Alice

Will try and write a few lines now as there seems to be a lull in the proceedings today. Your usual letters have been coming regularly and the fact that I have not written you direct for some time is no criterion of my appreciation of them. My letters to mother are intended for you all and under normal conditions are about all I can manage. I have not been even able to manage them lately but have sent an occasional post card to say that I was O.K.

As you know we have been very heavily engaged for nearly three weeks and I have had my hands full all the time. For ten days we were firing at intervals night and day and in spare moments trying to strengthen the Battery position. I took it over from an A.F. a battery that had been pretty well shot to pieces and the average English unit does not put much work in at best. The result was that they had to be taken out. I now have things in fair shape and feel somewhat more at ease than for the past fortnight. The 5th Canadian Division lost considerable ground on the 2nd of June and as a result the old first division had to be brought up to remedy matters. We have now retaken most of the lost ground and things are almost normal but the losses have been enormous and the ammunition expenditure colossal. I have had one officer killed and one died of wounds and twenty or so casualties.

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(killed and wounded) among the men. I have had four guns put out of action by direct hits (out of six) but I now have five in working order as the advance have replaced or repaired my losses promptly. I feel Murray's death very keenly and have only just finished writing his father (Campbellton NB) to express my sympathy and to give him what particulars I could. The boy was killed instantly which was a mercy as he was very badly lacerated about.

I have not seen Bob for a week or ten days and do not expect to until we are relieved. I have not had my clothes off for a month and am dirty and lousy beyond words. However I feel well though tired and am thankful to have come through so far with only two minor wounds, one on face and one on a finger, both of which are healing nicely.

Tell Elaine I have received several letters from her lately and will write before very long. You three girls have had an enjoyable time together and I am only sorry not to be able to join the party. At present my battery is brigaded under Jack Cullivan as the units are all wiped up on account of the same fighting.

I am glad you found Doc Red, not well. I have never heard a word of Guy Peterson but understand he is over here. I'm bad about Hazel not becoming well. I am frightfully sorry for Andy & Lou. Some of her offerings are beautiful hats.

Love from Jack and Miss Dinton

were able to pay ³ their promised visit. am
sure you will all enjoy having them.
(When you all miss Simpson thank
her for the kind remembrance.)

The weather here has been rotten for
a fortnight, the mud nearly as bad as in
winter and the troops have suffered
correspondingly. I was bad about Jim's engagement
being off, I never saw the youth she was
to have married but never heard that he
amounted to very much. Congratulate Poppy
for me, I would write ^{often} but have rather
more on my hands now than I can attend
to especially with three new officers and a lot
of green men to replace my casualties. am
glad the Lord sales have fallen off, no
decent citizen of the British empire should
have anything to do with their output. (his horse)

I have not seen Peggy or the Waler for
a month but Moggam tells me the horses
are looking very fit. For a time the teams were
busy hauling ammunition doing perhaps 30 miles
every night over heavy roads but they stood
the strain well and though roads heavily shelled
at times am glad to say I did not lose
a driver or horse.

Wont add much just now as
am tired and need some sleep. Will try
and write mother before end of week. Much
love to all

Your loving bro.

Wood.