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My Dear Alice

You have been very good about writing and I have been very remiss in answering lately. However I hope you realize my letters to Mother are home letters and intended for you all, at times when things are quiet it is easy enough to write as I have considerable leisure but often one does not even have a chance to think much less to correspond.

Last night was the first time I have taken my boots off since April twenty second as you can imagine what a strenuous time we have had. The Canadian infantry are so badly cut up that they have been withdrawn to rest and reorganize but the gunners are still on the job and likely to be. Yesterday we were bombarded by the Germans from both in front and in rear so you can imagine how nicely we are situated.

The French seem to have recovered a bit and made an attack yesterday by which they gained five or six hundred yards and if they can get up

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their nerve to go on our position will be materially improved. One colonel yesterday who has been out here since August said that we were getting "bloody hell" and that there had been nothing as bad since the commencement of the war. I can quite believe what he says also.

My Battery has been very fortunate all through and I have only lost about twenty five horses killed, 1 man died of wounds and fourteen men wounded. When one considers what we have gone through this is a wonderful showing. To tell the truth I do not know how any of us got out of St Julien alive the first night and luck was certainly with us just then and more or less ever since.

What has John Hobbs done to displease you. Suppose he has been reckless enough to propose or something of the sort. It is really too bad about Mrs. Becker and had that she should have all the money. Campbell has, I think, done very well out here but that won't help matters at home.

Thanks for the snaps of

yourself and squirrel also I had at front door. They all look very natural. I had a card from Nyla the other day, he is sure back at the base.

I don't put a five cent stamp on letters for me any more as only two cents are required. All mail, I understand, for the expeditionary force goes via England anyway. You know we all wear 1st aid bandages in the shirts of our jackets and mine saved me a wound last week. The bandage is quite a thick parcel and a sharp bullet pierced my jacket and embedded itself in the bandage. Had it not been for this the bullet would probably have gone through my thigh. Am carrying bandage and bullet round but don't know if they will ever reach home to show you.

It's rather a pity Jean cannot make up her mind though I am convinced young Balders is more or less engaged to her. Tell her from me that I suppose she doesn't write because she is so busy with the others. Frank Reid is doing some sort of paymaster's work in England and Gordon Hunt is there too. Nothing

to be proud of as far as either of them
are concerned. If Psi goes west Ibb
had you not better be on the lookout
for another ariedele. There is an
employee at the asylum, I forget his
name for the moment, who usually
has one or two for sale.

The French and the Lidore
division are to make another attack
this afternoon and we are to support
it. Will therefore have to close in
order to make the necessary
preparation.

Yours truly
Wood