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France

25/6/15.

Dear Alice

This will be an answer to yours of June first also Mother's letter written about a week later. I don't imagine that Beck was able to find me as my Battery was still right at Ypres when he was out and those he visited were down at a quiet place about twenty miles away. Curran knew about Young being wounded the day it occurred, some weeks before Beck was there and I hardly credit the year that the former burst into tears when Beck told him of it.

I had a note from Mrs. Mercer which I am enclosing also a clipping containing Campbell Beck's name among the casualties. It seems a great pity that so many should die and nothing be accomplished but in his case, with his private affairs so tangled, death might be the best solution. I was talking to him only the day before. Brook had transferred to another battalion and Campbell said he had been anything but a success. It seems he could never forget he was a "regular" and this

attitude was probably getting to other officers in the battalion many of whom could likely give Brook cards and spades as regards brains and ability.

I am also enclosing a list of the names of those of our contingent who have just been mentioned in despatches. None of those in our Brigade did as much or went through as much as those in the 12th but Bunstall has favorites who have gone to him with tales of their great gallantry and some of these are included in the list though others deserve the mention. Bunstall himself never left his very safe dugout during all the fighting at Ypres and knows nothing of what went on from first hand. I was asked to send in the name of a junior officer who had done good work. All mine had, and I could not make a choice so I drew lots among them and Candrett got it. In this way my Battery will get something but that Candrett gets it and not the other subalterns is only due to the fact that he was lucky in the draw as he did no more than the rest. Of course it is thanks to me that he gets mentioned at all but I think I am glad

on the whole as he really is a member (working) of the old Sixth and some at least of the others are not. There is of course just as much favoritism and so on in this game as anywhere else and it may be noted that all the officers in this brigade whose names are mentioned are Conservatives. This may be a coincidence or it may not, I am really not prepared to say as to this. My remarks in this connection must not be quoted except perhaps as regards scandal as it is a custom in the service to draw lots when several have distinguished themselves and only one can be given special mention.

The last time I saw Frank Reid he had not changed at all but I suppose his wife has to say something of this sort as Frank has come in for so much criticism. He could get to the front tomorrow if he really wanted to but I personally don't think he wants to very badly.

Now that Jph and Sarah have gone I suppose Elaine will probably make arrangements to go up to Ashwood. It is the wisest plan and

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things can be so much better handled
shure than in a flat.

I had letters from George Gumm
and Aunt Elizabeth both of which I
have answered also one from Aunt
Bidie which I shall reply to shortly.

things here been very quiet here for
the last few days and we have had
a lot of rain. It has been pouring all
day and only an hour or so ago there
was quite an electrical storm. Am glad
I have a roof over me just now.

I expect the Battery will get orders
to move tomorrow night as I hear
the Canadian Division is going back
to the Second Army somewhere between
Amentiere and Ypres. We were only loaned
to the First Army here for the recent
attacks and the Second Army is
what we rightfully belong to. I got a
few new men from the Divⁿ Ammⁿ
Column the other day, young Chivas
being among the number as he is now
with me again in case you should see
his mother

If Poi went away with Bob
dont forget what I said about
getting a pup to replace him. Oakwood
would not be itself without at

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least one dog to bark at Baldwin's chickens.

I received the paper in which was marked Mrs Tilly's letter re Heakes. As I have already told you he was made a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers some time ago and will probably be able to use his professional knowledge in digging mines under the German trenches. He could probably have had a subaltern's job (not captain) in his own battalion but S. R. Heakes thinks (I have no doubt) that his chances of coming out alive are better in the R. E. than in the infantry.

The mosquitoes and flies have been very bad here lately but I draw lots of chloride of lime and creolin and have them scattered around pretty freely. The soil hereabouts has been artificially fertilized for many ~~years~~ centuries and is naturally a fine breeding place for all such pests. The Grenadier Guards are now in front of us having relieved one of the Canadian battalions last night. They may have been better than the other troops at the commencement of the war but now

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they all look alike, that is all
who have done heavy fighting. The 2nd
Sudans are also here and battalions
two of the Royal Scots and Royal
Welsh Fusiliers all famous regiments.

I am expecting to have a
letter from Dpt in England before
very long. He will be very glad to
arrive there and probably the
second contingent are all impatient
to get over here. The general impression
is that they won't see France until
the end of July or thereabouts but
no one of course knows anything
definite.

My man Shinky has been
returned to the front but is not
posted to my Battery. However I
am arranging to trade a man for
him and hope to get the
transfer through before very long.

In the meantime I am being well
looked after by a boy named Charles
who used to work for C. Leonard and
sons and my groom, an Irishman
named Mardney is keeping the
two nags in good shape. They will
have a long march before them when
the Battery moves but it won't

but as they ⁷ have had very little
to do lately.

I am always glad to have your
letters, they are always interesting
and you need never make excuses
in regard to them. Lots of love

from

your affectionate brother
Wood