

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

Belgium

5/7/15.

Dear Alice

I received a letter from Bob today sending me the enclosed letter with instructions to forward it on to you. This I am doing and will add a few lines. He evidently had a good trip and now has his horses therefore will soon have things in shape again. He says however that they don't expect to get over here for two months which is probably about a correct guess.

You can tell Mrs. Mercer that her husband was not alone when he died. This death occurred in either the dressing station or field hospital and he would get every attention in either that it was possible to give under the then existing circumstances.

Young Chase is now with the Battery, I arranged an exchange for him nearly a month ago. He was much sicker in the Divisional Ammunition Column but

you need not tell her this. Young
Cunning has not yet returned
to the Battery and I have no
idea of his present whereabouts.

I shall try and find out Hammer
and will advising him to
have part of his pay sent home he
could easily do it as a gunner
is only allowed to draw six dollars
a month and the other twenty five
dollars goes to his credit.

I am at all approve of
Sarah going to England and have
already told Bob so. However she is
there by now and nothing is to
be gained by criticism. I think it a
good plan to close the top flat and
hope that by now you have a
suitable housemaid. They should
not be hard to find in these times.
I am glad you still have Poi as
he is great company.

Hope that Elaine continues
bright and that she gets
through her affair with a
minimum of suffering and presents
you with a nice surprise.
I think of her a good deal
these days and hope it

is not as hot with you as it is here. The last few days it has been very warm and close as I suppose we will get some more rain before long.

Col. Shannon is quite right when he insists on all minor details being carried out properly. Most of the more junior officers in the new contingents have never even been in the militia before and one cannot be too strict with that sort. I was glad when he got the appointment as he always did the right thing and never said a whole lot that he did not mean.

I was surprised to have a visit today from Hyla. He returned from Dubuque and spent a few hours with me. I took him into the trenches and showed him pretty well all over the place and also how things were run. He had never been at the actual front before and was much interested. The German snipers were rattling at my observing station while he was

there and I fired a few rounds
at their trenches to show him
how well we could shoot. His visit
must not be mentioned to any of
his family or to anyone who
might speak about it as Kyle
had promised not to go near
the firing line unless ordered
and naturally does not want his
people to know about being here.
This restriction is important and
you must all be careful of it as I
really should not have mentioned
his visit to you.

I had a letter the other
day from Aunt May written
at Atlantic City also another
from Uncle Jack. The latter has
been very good about writing as
I have heard from him quite
frequently of late. I wrote mother
a couple of days ago pretty fully
about my recent movements so
I have not much ~~more~~ just news
just now. Am rather hoping to
get a few days leave in the
near future and will all I be
at Thorncliffe or else arrange

to spend a day in London with him.
Things along this front are very
quiet just now though we
hear that the Germans are
renewing the offensive against the
French to the south.

Wish love
Wood