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The Field

20/1/16.

Dear Alice

Will write you a few lines  
as I have a good opportunity at the  
moment though perhaps not much to  
talk about. I write both Mother and  
Father within the past week so far I  
have covered the ground very well

Many thanks for your letter  
of December twenty seventh which was  
most interesting and full of news. Also  
for an earlier note with Rev.  
Murphy's letter to Mother. He is a  
good sort and probably has a pretty  
hard time to make ends meet.

I was sorry to hear of Fred  
Blak's death but of course if there  
was no hope an early demise far  
better than lingering a long time  
Thanks for sending the photo to  
the Simpsons. I heard from Mrs.  
S. the other day and she was  
apparently much pleased at having  
it.

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The photographs I had taken in England were none too good but "such as it is" and so forth. Perhaps now that I can spare a ribbon I may try my luck again. Somehow or other I can never feel natural when facing a camera and I think the results always show this most emphatically.

I sent you the other day a book of poems which Sally sent me. I thought you might like to have it for me especially as some of the poems are very much above the average. I understand that a move is contemplated very shortly and if it comes off I want as little impedimenta as possible. I don't mean by this that the offensive is to be taken but in all probability the decision is to be relieved and moved elsewhere. I'd much rather stay here but we are getting into a rut and the shift will help to get us out of it and into shape again.

Am glad you and Father enjoyed Christmas after all; I can realize how delighted you were

3.  
with the good news from Ottawa. It was a great relief I am sure as was Farkus's cable which reached me about January fifth.

I don't see why the Labatt business prospects should seem so dull while the Carlings are apparently so prosperous. Of course the latter have a much more up to date plant than our neighbors but still I think the true boys are far too much inclined to look on the dark side of things.

Yes its time that Walter Reid has joined the needless and useless staff at Shorncliffe, which is directed by the great and yellow front. I always thought the former too much of a soldier for that sort of thing but apparently he is not. It isn't soldiering, you know, grafting is a better term for it though perhaps rather an ugly word to use.

Chester's remarks about Scandrett are perhaps not unfounded as the latter does not know as much as he tries to make out. At the same

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time Chester's criticism is probably tinged with jealousy to some extent. Those who have not seen success are always ready to criticize the chap who has. Chester's record is nothing to boast of, I gave him an opportunity of coming with me and he had no reason for not doing so, yet he didn't and my opinion <sup>of him</sup> naturally did not rise in leaps and bounds, at his behavior.

Leardult is a young fool and does not know what's what. He blows too much and I've no doubt that he makes far too much fuss over his arm. Yet he has been out here and should get credit for it especially for those who have not.

Your tea was a great success as I heard all about it from one of your guests - to wit George Gunn. He wrote me a very nice letter, said a lot of nice things and incidentally gave considerable news. It is too bad Dr. Willie does not get married. Does he intend going to England or is he just with

the Battery until its departure. I had not heard about Hyla's capture but would not be surprised as he is clever and capable. However unloading ships and so forth is not exciting and at best it is not a fighting man's job.

I am glad Lady Buek is not getting any more popular. I have always disliked her very much and I don't really dislike many people. Cresser got leave to get married and when he returns is to come to my Battery as captain. However that is not for some weeks and in the mean time this plan may be changed. I am not keen on having him though he is an excellent officer I believe. I could get leave too for the same purpose, I've no doubt, as it is one of the few reasons that are accepted, but I have no one in mind even, much less a fiancée.

I was very sorry to hear of Archie's death and have already sent a note to Lopy. He and I were good friends and latterly fairly intimate for no particular reason. I see that

8.  
Sopray's hideaway (from Monet, I've forgotten her name for the moment) is engaged. I always thought Cameron Wilson was the strong man there but apparently not. Archie never had any money as Sopray won't have much as you say.

I had a nice note from Babs today thanking me for congratulations. You might tell her that I was glad to have it, when you see her and that I assume her we are friends as far as I know. I've had about the skating club but I suppose there really are not enough people to keep it going and the few there we have very little time.

I got Millie Harris' card and as I had sent them we don't think it needs an acknowledgement. What happened to Annie Elliot that she decided to call, surely she is not thinking of becoming friendly again. Elliot Greene is still with me, a good worker and most painstaking but never brilliant. I shall be very sorry if he goes. Just now Harry & Cecilia is attached to my

Battery for instruction and helps to  
keep us merry and bright. I don't  
know whether I shall get him  
permanently or not but hardly think  
so.

I don't exactly envy you having  
Agnes on your hands unless she  
has changed a lot. Evidently she  
has altered her views a bit anyway  
as Aunt May tells me she likes  
offices very much now whereas a  
couple of years or so ago she had  
no use for soldiers and preferred  
"actors" if I remember correctly.

One of Clara's notes to you  
was very characteristic, talking of  
godma, fires and so forth. I  
can readily picture her saying it.  
Yes I agree that Ivan's letter  
read very well. He and Geneva  
seem to be the pets of the family  
next to Aunt Lou herself, who is  
of course, an angel. Mrs. Allport  
doesn't think much of Ivan's  
ability however though I know  
little or nothing about him  
save that of whom you speak  
is one of my sergeants, an ex-

- policeman and a splendid type of man. I have just succeeded in getting commissions for two of my other sergeants and am having them in to the mess tomorrow for lunch before they go to England for further training. These are the men who should get commissions and not the babes, sucklings and political hangers on that are being made into so called officers in Canada by the wholesale.

This is rather an evilly written scrawl but, perhaps you will be able to decipher most of it.

Must love  
your brother  
Wood