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Western Archives, Western University

3 Dec 1915
Belgium

Dearest Mother

I am just writing a line or two to thank you very much for your last letter which ^{covered} the 5000 miles you speak of very rapidly after all. I fear this will hardly reach you by 25th but hope it will as I want to wish you and Percy a very happy Christmas and New Year and also to express the hope that a year from now may see us all much closer together.

It seems hard that you should be separated from dear Sarah for two successive Christmas times and you have been very noble and self sacrificing in the way you have given her up.

I hope to go with her in England about that time but of course our leave is a little uncertain and always subject to the exigencies of the campaign.

I am enclosing a small piece of hand made work done by Belgian women in a town a few miles away from here that is shelled by the Germans very nearly every day. There were formerly about 2500 people there and now only 350 or 400 still remain in their old houses. Most of the houses are ruins and a great many absolutely levelled to the ground. Only part of the lower and

the outer walls of the Church (or very old one)
remain standing and there are several
huge shell holes in the adjacent grave
yard. The women who made this place
for me still remain and take a big
chance. They hate to leave their old homes
and the country is so full of refugees as
they told me that they simply cannot
find a place to go to. They go down in
the cellar ~~when~~ after the first shell comes
over, but sometimes do not even bother
to do that. The house next to theirs is a
ruin and there are shell holes in the
stone street by them. They are brave
women and one cannot help wondering
of the brutes (for that is all they are) of the
Germans will ever be sorry for all the
desolation and misery they have caused
to innocent women and children. Some
like this inspire our Officers and men in
a way nothing else could and I know that
the whole British Army feels that nothing
can stop our ultimate victory and
destruction of the War God and his
infernal machine. Please overlook
my strong feelings but am sure if you
and Percy were here and could see what we
have you would share them. Please
give my best wishes to any of your other
boys to whom you may write and especially
Percy. With very much love and best
wishes for the coming year Believe me
your affectional son Bob