

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

The Field
26/12/15.

Dearest Mother

For a wonder it is a perfectly glorious day. The sky is blue, the sun is shining and the air is quite balmy. I wish we did not have similar weather yesterday for Christmas. It rained all morning and then stopped but the day was not an inviting one.

I rode Peggy up to the battery where we had our Christmas dinner at 2 P.M. The party was composed of Greene Magoon, McLoggart Murray Bell and myself and Mr Ewen came in for an hour later on. We had an excellent meal of which I am mailing you the menu with some other papers which please keep for me. Greene had decorated the room and table in Christmas style and on the whole we had a most enjoyable time. There was a little firing during the day but except for

2.
that the Canadian front was
unusually quiet.

I had quite a long letter from
Lehof this morning and was more
than glad to hear from him again.
He said you were not going there
for Christmas and I suppose you
decided to remain at Oakwood instead.
I am wondering how Estelle is getting
on and am most anxious to hear
the outcome there.

By the way who is it that
has bought the CWL house. You
mentioned it in one of your letters and
I am rather curious to hear particulars
as soon as they are available. Gordon
Hunt seems to be having a bad time
of it. Frank Reid in my opinion
is in the same class and he and
his big staff at Thorncliffe are most
unnecessary. In fact it constitutes one
of the biggest scandals of the war
and I have no doubt there will
be a tremendous row about it
sooner or later.

Thanks for sending me Ethel
Keaple's letter. As you say she is
out for a good time always. Neither

she nor Aunt Miriam are doing much in the way of self sacrifice. I am sorry to hear Aunt Abigail is not looking well but am not surprised as she has worked far too hard for a long time. If the mine is not going to be a success why dont they chuck it. Surely they have done everything possible to make it go.

Scandrett should certainly have made a point of calling on you soon after he arrived. However he was perhaps a little ashamed of himself and probably being sported by getting a lot of attention. I had a letter from him last week in which he said he had done his best to all you and was very sorry he had ever left the Battery. It was certainly a mistake a getting a capture in Canada is not looked upon as an honor by the people who are out here I assume you.

Stephen must be a fine boy from all accounts but it is not surprising as he has fine mother and a finer grandmother. I only

hope Castle will be similarly blessed
within the next few days.

StH got his leave and I expect
he and Sally spent Christmas together
in London. He should be back about
the middle of the week and I shall
probably hear all about it then. I
am still away from the Battery but
expect to go back tomorrow or
Tuesday at the latest.

There is a moat around this
farm, years ago it was the site of
a chateau, and the water is over
the road and drawbridge making
it rather a difficult place to get
in and out of. However if we get a
few days good weather the water
should go down rapidly.

Cesar has gone home on
leave and is to marry one of the
Ben Cronyn girls - which one it is, I
don't know. He will probably have
himself made a general at least
when over there. On his return he
is to come to my Battery as
Captain as Greene is soon to go to
the 9th. At the present moment
the Colonel is in command of the

Divisional Artillery as General Thacker
is away. I am hoping he will get
command of the artillery in the Third
division but have heard nothing
definite about it.

Please tell father that I only
received the photograph of my gun
wheel and I must say that it looks
very nice indeed. I also received a
letter on general business dated
December the third to which I shall
reply before very long. At present
there is very little to write about as
things are very quiet. I see that
Premier Asquith says we have over
a million and a quarter men on
the various fronts and I am sure
things must be daily getting into
better shape. Of course no move can
be expected for some time yet but
the initiative now rests with us. The
war will be settled on this front
and it is idle for the Boche to
talk about Egypt and India. They
may make further progress in the
Near East and cause no considerable
annoyance by so doing but at
the worst it will only delay our

inevitable victory

shall close now as really
nothing to add. With best love
to all

Your devoted son
Ward.