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Western Archives, Western University

The Field

31/12/15.

Dear Alice

Have had your letter of
November twenty fifth before me for
some time intending to write. There is
really so little to talk about that
I hesitate even now to attempt a
reply.

As I have said before it is
absurd for Abraham to be given command
of the new battalion and sooner or
later the mistake will count
against himself and his creator. I
see however that he has a fairly
good list of officers on his slate
and if he can command their
loyalty they can do much to help
him.

I had a letter from the
youthful deandult the other day
written from Idington. I think he was
trying to apologize for not having
been to call at Oakwood so I
told him I did not really expect
him to know enough to do so. I
hear from other sources that he

is engaged to some Toronto girl and
 am wondering who the individual is.
 The still owes me for his last
 mess bill though I don't hold that
 against him as it is certainly an
 oversight.

I had rather a nice note
 from Jan at Christmas. He is at
 present staying with Alora. I have
 not yet seen Bolduc but the
 R.C.R. are to have their first
 turn in the trenches next week
 so I may have a chance of looking
 him up then. It is said they
 are going to relieve the brigade I
 am now helping to cover.

It was awfully good of
 Mother and you to send me that
 splendid box. I can't begin to
 thank you for it. Everything arrived
 in perfect order and the contents
 are most useful as acceptable, the
 maple syrup and short bread
 being specially enjoyed. The sweater
 coat and socks too will be useful
 as well as many other things.

Aunt Elizabeth sent me a
 box of cats as did so many other

people that our mess is pretty well stocked for the next couple of weeks. If a move were ordered we could never carry it all but fortunately there does not appear to be much chance of any such thing. I got cards and things from such a lot of strange people - Mrs. Baker for instance, Helen Gunn and others too numerous to mention, I wish I had a secretary to reply or to write the various notes of acknowledgement.

Am sorry to hear about Bea Peterson's husband. I always thought he was rather well off. She was a nice girl and it is too bad she has such a hard time. The last time I heard of Guy he was in the A.S.C. of one of Kitchener's new divisions but he may be over in France now for all I know.

Please tell Father I have his letters of the third and eleventh and will write before long. The boxes I sent were from various Boche shells and picked up here

and there. H Z means that the shell came from a howitzer and K Z means that it came from a gun but I cannot give details about each from here as it would take too long and anyway I would need to have them before me to do it properly. The numbers on them refer to the year or are shop numbers probably referring to the ~~at~~ hatch or lot as it went through the makers hands.

When you write please tell Elaine that I got her parcel also the photograph of Stephen. I will write her later also Estelle who sent me a parcel of cats too. I had a note today from Hb written from the Carleton. He should be back in a day or so and then I shall hear all about his doings during the brief leave.

The Germans have been quite active the last few days and have put a number of shells in this vicinity. Pieces have flown all around my guns but no damage done I am glad to say. Yesterday

our planes pulled off a raid on some point behind the German lines. Nearly twenty of them flew over us in the morning but what the result was, of course, we do not yet know.

Your ci devant admirer Hugh Fraser is in the 2nd Battalion right in front of us just now. I have not seen him and only heard he was there a couple of days ago. He came out in a draft a month or so ago and I hear is soon to go as orderly officer to Col. Sir Williams who is slated for the command of one of the brigades in the third division.

I think you also know I knew Robertson our paymaster. He is engaged to the Puley girl and talks of getting married before long but whether in earnest or not I don't know. He was in the same form as I & myself at Upper Canada and in those days we never expected to be campaigning together sixteen years later, especially in this part of the world.

I did not rain yesterday and today as far the weather has been fine. Such a state of affairs is so unusual that I shall have to make a note of it in my diary. I would give a good deal for a couple of weeks of bright Canadian winter weather but that is not in the cards in this part of the world.

I am enclosing a small sample of our Christmas decorations. Will not add more just now.
 Much love

Ward.