

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

France
22 Feb 15

Dearest Mother

Since writing you a
day or so ago your letter of the
thirtieth January also one from
Alice of February first and another
from you of February seventh
have all come in together.

I thought it as well to
write again as another opportunity
may not present itself for a
week or ten days. Tomorrow the
O.C. of each Battery in the 3rd
Brigade and certain details go
forward to the firing line
tomorrow morning. We are to
observe fire and learn as much
as possible about the methods in
use etc. Later on the entire
Brigade will move forward and
relieve units now holding
parts of the line. We are to be

2
up there for eight days and
will be somewhere in front of
the village of Armentieres very
close to the boundary between
France and Belgium.

I am sorry that Hbb is
having trouble about his state
of officers but such must be
expected. I hope he wins out in
the end as a properly
disciplined unit cannot be
made unless the officers are
soldiers and gentlemen. One of the
great troubles with this contingent
in the infantry has been the
poor class of officer that was
forced on some of the units.

Am sure that Lolly will
be a great acquisition to
the family circle and only
wish I were with you all

again to do what I could for
her. However that will no
doubt come later.

I think I have had a
touch of the brow ache I was
bothered with a winter or so
ago. Have had it on and off
for some weeks but fortunately
not very severe. I think it was
a result of the grippe or
something of the sort.

Am glad Father's cold is
better and hope he will not
be bothered again. I just got
word that one of the sick men
I left behind in England has
died at Rotherham of pneumonia.
He came from Winnipeg and
his loss can only be ascribed
to the unnecessary exposure
to which the men had to

+

undergo on Salisbury Plains.

I saw a picture of Gordon
Hunt in a London ^{ent} paper the
other day as being probably
at the front. As you know he
was practically kicked out of the
Canadian Contingent but got a
commission in Whitehens army.
His battalion is still accounting
in old London so he is still
pretty far from the front.

I am glad that Elaine has
had a restful time and know
how you have of course enjoyed
having her with you. To bad
about Poi being laid up. The
girls taking him to bed in
a sling must have been nearly
as funny as Catie, and
Hayles and the baby carriage
years ago.

I hear that the Royal Can.
 Regt is still at Bermuda^{and} has no
 chance of coming across just yet.
 They must feel pretty sick over
 it all. So Lecky Smith still
 in Australia, I suppose so.

Re Jean and Baldus. After
 years of observation I have come to
 the conclusion that engaged
 people have a special license
 to deny being engaged and such
 denial is not entered as a
 black mark in the Judgment
 Book. Possibly this special
 arrangement has been made for
 their protection by angels or
 others and may be justified
 though I doubt it.

Tell Alice that this letter
 is also intended to answer her
 recent ones and that I am

always interested in them despite
her claims to the contrary.

I think I have rambled
on sufficiently so will come
to a halt. There is really very
little to write about here as
it is quite as dull as
anywhere else except for the
sound of the guns in the
distance. The German aeroplanes
are apparently quite outclassed
and make no raids on the
rear of the British line.

Love to all

Your devoted son
Wood