

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

to come on Beth's second
Contingent even if he has to
descend to the status of an
infantryman to do so. I fully
realize that is tremendously
hard on the family to stay
working of the business. Nevertheless
it is our duty as more or
less prominent citizens and
militiamen to show an example
in this matter. This struggle
is one of life and death for
the British Empire. Many
people (even over here) do not
realize this and the recruiting
is far from satisfactory. For
this reason it is essential
that we all do our part,
no matter how small and
if we do so there can be
no question as to the
successful outcome of the
struggle.

Too bad about May

West Down North
Salisbury Plain
18/11/17.

Dearest Mother

Your letter post
marked the second and one from
Alice dated the fifth both came
in this morning. They are the
first family letters I have
received for nearly two weeks
and you may be sure I was
glad to get them.

It is too bad that the
letters I posted from the boat
at Newport did not reach
you more promptly but it is
possible that they were
held for a day or so here.

I am glad in many
ways that Bob has decided

Labatt being laid up again.
Our neighbours have certainly
had more than their share
of trouble during the past
twelvemonth or so. Rather
amusing too, her request to
be kissed when recovering
from the anesthetic. Had

George Hale been alone I do
not think he would have
stood back at all.

I did not know that
the Lillys were locating
on Mill Street. They will
be quite near "Auntie Kit"

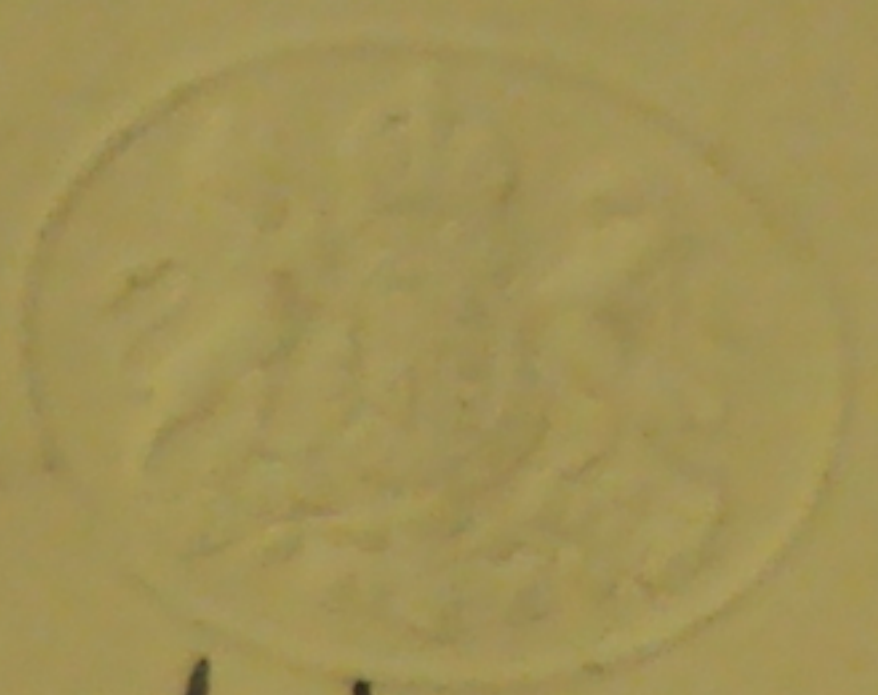
Glad that your tea
and supper went off nicely.
From Edna's letter she

and Gerald must have
enjoyed their visit with
you. Aunt Elizabeth will
be with her own people
at least in Chicago though
doubtless she still continues
to miss the London
atmosphere.

Hope that Ibb will
get things satisfactorily
arranged but suppose there
will be no chance of
their leaving for some
time yet. I know it
must be hard for you
to let him go but it
is necessary and we must
all make some sacrifices
though none perhaps so
great as those of the
wives and mothers. God

puts us back to the position
we were in before going
to Valenciennes. There seems to
be no end to the official
higgling, and if the War
Office contemplated this
change (which they undoubtedly
have for some months past) why
could they not have notified
us and thus have saved
the re-organization on a 6
gun basis only to have
cut down as they are
doing now.

As I said in my
last I am now adjutant
of the Third Brigade which
is a good job and I shall
be quite satisfied is no
other change as far as
I am concerned. However
it is hard to say just

§ 
bless them !!

The latest thing here is
an order changing all
batteries back to four
guns instead of six. This
means the creation of a
new Brigade of three
batteries to use up the
surplus guns. It will
also possibly mean that
I shall be offered one of
the new Batteries; (this of
course is only my opinion)
Details are not yet settled
but the change means
the upsetting of the
field artillery of the
Canadian Contingent and

g

what may be in the air
as regards the new batteries
and until the thing is
settled cannot say how
long I am likely to be
adjutant. Of course I miss
my own officers, several of
whom I have considerable
regard for, and this makes
me a bit lonely but there
is lots of work to keep me
occupied and plenty of
riding to keep me from
getting fat.

This last brings me to
my own condition and I
am ashamed to say that
I fear I am putting on
weight. Have had to let

my Samff Browne belt out
a hole and my appetite
is simply cavernous. Perhaps
the outdoor life accounts
for it just as the
dampness can be blamed
for the swollen fingers,
which by the way, are
going down a bit.

It has just occurred to
me (why I don't know) that
I left quite a few things
in my locker at the
barracks which ought to be
brought in. Ibb may have
attended to this already
but if not perhaps it
could be arranged. Nothing
there of any value but
if left the locker will
only be rifled sooner or
later.

later had a drink with
Jack Cuffman and Col.
Dodds (the latter used to
be in the seats.)

In the afternoon I went
for quite a ride through
several pretty villages, Shrewton,
Maddington and one or two
others, all so quaint and
nearly always lying in
little valleys. It rained a
bit before we got back
but not enough to hurt.

Last night it turned very
cold and this morning
the ground was frozen
on the top. I hauled a
coal oil stove and kept
it going in the tent
till I retired which made
things fairly comfortable.
I also boiled some water

I

Am glad that Father has
been able to keep up his
occasional game of golf and
hope that he does not
worry too much over the
business.

On Sunday we had a
church parade, as usual very
wet under foot but no
rain fortunately. Rev. Canon
Almond preached but I must
confess his sermon did
not impress me. It may
seem tedious to say it
but his method of discourse
reminded me strongly of
Sam Hughes method of
making a speech. I commanded
the Brigade as the
Colonel was away and

R

on it and put it in my water bottle and took it to bed with me. It made a fine hot water bottle and I was beautifully warm. Woke up about four a.m. and lit the stove again and it took the chill off by the time I got up an hour later.

I forgot to say that on the church parade on Sunday there were three field officers, Culman Butten and myself, all old boys of V.C.C. the first a Lieut Colonel and the other two majors.

There were of course lots of others but I think that was a pretty good showing.

I had a letter from Aunt Louisa yesterday. She really is wonderful about writing and remembering things. I might add that this change in the Batteries will probably delay our departure considerably more than anyone anticipated. One of the officers came back from leave on Sunday and he says that all commercial traffic on the railways in the South of England was suspended on Saturday. This is supposed to mean that another large force was sent to the front but

be at once dignified, tender
and appropriate.

Fear I have nothing
more to add so will draw
this to a close. Will try
and write Alice direct
next time. Best love to
all

your devoted son
Wood.

P. S. Will try to get up
to London at end of
week as may not be able
to do so later if new
Battery plans are gone ahead
with.

M

such matters are handled so
quietly that no one outside
the official circles really
knows what is going on.

I all the names of
several ex cadets in the
list of killed and wounded,
among the number being
Dale Carr Harris whom I
think you or Alice met
on a boat once. The
Daily Telegraph heads its
list of killed, wounded
and missing with the
words

The Honor Roll
Who dies if England live?
which seems to me to
Kipling