

7<sup>th</sup> Dec 14.

West Down N.

Salisbury Plain

Dearest Mother

This will be an attempt to answer your letter of the ninth November which was waiting for me on my return from London.

I am glad that you are now getting my letters more or less regularly as I have written, I think, an average of at least two a week to you or some other member of the immediate family.

Please do not be anxious about my health as I have really never been better barring one or two very minor matters. The life, despite the wet seems to agree with nearly everyone and the percentage of sick men is very low indeed, as our doctor tells me.

As yet there are no signs of our going into the huts. I hear that the government is having trouble with the carpenters and also that there is some sort of a scandal brewing as regards the



prices that are being paid for materials.

I see there is a paragraph in the paper about a plot to assassinate Hughes and suppose it is another good advertising dodge. If he were over in the lines of the Canadian Contingent he might not be murdered but he would certainly be well beaten up.

When in St Pauls the other day we went down into the crypt and saw Roberts grave. It was still covered with wreaths and flowers of all sorts and descriptions.

I missed Mrs. Betts in London as she was up visiting Hyla at Beckenstead. However I have since received a note from her stating that Hyla has been given a lieutenant's commission in Kitchener's army and that he will probably be stationed somewhere on Salisbury Plain in the near future. Kitchener's Army is made up of the men they enlist from day to day and of



course will require a great deal of training before being fit for service. Hyle tried to get a commission in the Engineers where his training might help but he was not successful. There is little or no difficulty in getting a commission in Kitchener's Army as they are very short of officers and I hear that some of the appointments made were almost immediately cancelled as the appointees were absolutely useless.

I was naturally much surprised to hear by cable of Ibb's marriage but was, none the less, delighted at the news. I cabled them from London and also wrote. Ibb did wisely to take the Montreal offer as he is in with a nice crowd <sup>and</sup> possibly a more efficient corps. The decision to get married must have been arrived at in a hurry as you apparently knew nothing of it when you wrote. Am wondering who were at the wedding and will be glad to have all



particulars in due course, naturally  
now that they are married there is  
no further need for any secrecy in  
the matter.

Am glad you find Agnes so  
much improved - we all thought there  
was lots of room for it but  
perhaps we were a bit prejudiced.  
I shall be glad to get word from  
Father with some particulars as to  
business. Am glad also that you  
and he are both keeping so well.

It is raining again today and  
naturally the work is very much  
interfered with by the weather. I  
really had no idea that men could  
exist in the mud ~~as~~ as they  
are doing here and remain  
comparatively cheerful. It is of course  
nothing to what we will have to  
put up with later but things are  
very much different when one is on  
actual active service and not merely  
training for it.

As mentioned to Alice I saw  
Mr. Blair when in town last



5.  
week and he made very kind  
enquiries for you all and promised  
to write the Kidston and say that  
I had been in. They are now  
importing large quantities of U. S.  
materials for British consumption.  
Needless to say, this is quite the reverse  
to the usual line of business that  
they carry on.

I think I have mentioned  
previously that the field artillery  
is being re-organized on a four gun  
battery basis. This means the  
formation of a new brigade in  
which I am to get a battery. Am  
expecting to have McEwen as my  
captain and young Leardrett as one  
of the three lieutenants, so that  
my unit will be largely from  
London though not altogether so.  
I am trying to get Wagon and  
Muesgatt especially the latter but  
fear there is not much prospect  
of succeeding in this just now.  
Perhaps later on it may be  
arranged. I shall be very glad of



4  
course to have a Battery command  
again. The re-organization means a  
great deal of work which is  
necessitated simply on account of  
the Batteries having been altered  
at Valcartier. If they had been left  
alone and allowed to come over  
here on the old establishment they  
would have been in the shape  
they now have to be changed to.

I am naturally anxious to do  
something towards getting a present  
for Lolly and Bob and thought  
I would send <sup>her</sup> one hundred and  
fifty dollars or else have you buy  
something of about this value  
and have it given in that way.  
Do you think this would be in  
order. I do not know just how  
my London account stands so will  
arrange to have the money sent  
from here direct to you and leave  
it entirely to your good judgement  
as to what should be done. Will  
write London (England) tonight and  
try to have a draft forwarded



by the end of the week.

Have about exhausted my topics  
and as my candle is getting low  
will draw to a close. Best love  
to all

your devoted son  
Wood.

P. S. Col. Mitchell (my present  
commanding officer married a  
Goodrich of Toronto as I suppose  
he is some relation to Claire's  
friend Eleanor. etc.