

West Down North  
Salisbury Plain

T.S.S. "MONTEZUMA."

10. Nov. 1914.



Dear Father

This is just a line to wish you  
Very Many Happy Returns of November sixteenth.  
I fear that my letter will be a little late  
but my intentions were of the best at any  
rate. I am sorry not to be at home on  
the occasion of your anniversary to present  
my good wishes in person but my place is  
unquestionably here at this time.

I sent two men from my section to  
London on Saturday as representatives for  
the Lord Mayor's show. I am enclosing  
under separate cover a copy of today's  
Times describing the procession and giving  
a verbatim report of the speeches at the  
Banquet. They are all splendid and reflect  
the determination of Britain to persevere in the  
present war until militant Germany is no  
longer a menace to the British Empire and  
others.

I understand that the British government  
is greatly disappointed with the number of



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men volunteering and some say that conscription by ballot is inevitable. In the meantime the papers are conducting a vigorous campaign and this may result in an improvement.

We have had three days without rain but today the wet has started once more and I suppose any work undertaken will be considerably interfered with. Really the camp here, as far as has been of little or no value, in my estimation, other than getting men and horses more or less inured to wet weather. Just what the plans are I cannot say but I would not be surprised if we remained in England considerably longer than most people anticipate.

My own plans are still somewhat undefined. Col. Mitchell of the Third Brigade has again come to me asking that I take over the adjutantcy of his brigade. He has asked Col. Bristall of the O.C. Divisional Artillery for my transfer and it is quite likely



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that the change will go through. However nothing official has come out in orders yet. Mitchell approached me once before at Valparaiso about the same thing but nothing came of it. I think I told Hb about it when he visited me there. The advantages are better pay and being assured of going on the firing line; while the disadvantages are losing such of my own officers and men as are still with me and working under a man who is generally considered a bit of an old woman.

I am rather holding back from taking a few days leave until the matter is settled though a good many of the officers of the column have already been to London and elsewhere. I still have quite a few purchases to make but they can readily wait a little longer.

I am sorry that business has fallen off so deplorably but this is inevitable in our line during such a time as the present.



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I hear that in certain circles here the war is expected to last for three years and when one considers Germany's immense resources such an expectation seems reasonable. One critic states that it will be a struggle similar to the American Civil War and the end will only come when one side or the other is completely exhausted both as to men and money as was the case in 1864. This is not a cheerful outlook for E. Leonard and Sons Limited but there is always the hope that North America will benefit as regards trade and that Canada will share in proportion.

I am glad to know that all at home are bright and well. I have been bothered a bit with swollen fingers due to the damp. The swelling is going down now however and when one gets used to all this wet, it should disappear entirely. Otherwise I am exceptionally well, so much so that I fear am adding to my weight. This should

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disappear also when we are able to get more riding and vigorous exercise.

I do not get much chance of seeing the other Londoners in the contingent as they are all at other camps except Coles, Williams and Jack Hunt. One Canadian military hospital has already gone to Paris and another to London but whether Cameron Wilson and Stuart Fisher accompanied them or not, I could not say.

About one third or so of the contingent moved into wooden huts down at Bulford yesterday and little by little all the rest will be housed similarly as soon as huts are completed. This will facilitate work as the huts will always be dry inside and if we get wet there will be a better opportunity for getting dry than we have at present.

I had a nice letter from Aunt May since arriving here. I think I wrote and told Mother how good she and

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Uncle Charlie write to me. Intend writing  
her again before very long. Hope that  
Aunt Lizzie et al had a pleasant visit  
in London. From Mother's letter it could  
not have been a very long one.

Will close now as time presses. Best  
love to all and again my affectionate  
good wishes for your birthday

your son  
Woodman  
C. P. Woodman