

Dec.31/17.

Lieut.Col. Ibbotson Leonard,
Canadian Light Horse,
B.E.F. France.

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My Dear Ibb,-

SUNDAY Dec.23rd. Attended church and the balance of the family went for a motor ride. Spent the day practically with our daughters and the family very pleasantly. Many pangs for dear Woodmans absence and good wishes for Ibb and Sarah. Andrew Greenless my old 50 year friend died suddenly yesterday aged 74. His two sons Harry and Alex are at the front and will no doubt feel this affliction. Mrs. Greenless was in Hospital at the time having broken her thigh.

Wrote a short letter to you re mounting shop and other matters.

MONDAY Dec.24th. Fairly good mail and some money. I.M.B. sent us \$7350.00. The last and west monitor in place and ready for sash. Bricklaying proper finished in mounting shop which is very satisfactory. The works did not run to-day except to keep things warm.

John Ibbotson and James Burnett arrived at noon to-day very much to our surprise. Unloading shells all day.

Cabled you our best wishes in the evening.

TUESDAY Dec.25th. Christmas day. Bright and cold, had a late breakfast. Went to office and opened a small mail with R.S.Holmes. Stephens and his helper putting up bases on the nosing room shafting. Two coke fires are going day and night to prevent accumulator freezing and we have boarded off that corner for the purpose.

Had a Christmas tree for Stephen and Leonard, also a flash light of which we will send you one.

Had a long talk with John, Aubrey and Innis and showed them Woodman's papers, maps, etc.

WEDNESDAY Dec.26th. Employees pretty well back to work. Repairing furnace for nosing shells. Took Jack and Jim Burnett through the shop to see them shell making and also to see the new shop and saw them off C.P.R. at noon for Detroit.

Innis and Aubrey had lunch with us and I talked to the latter who will write you what he thinks of the Tractor business.

Attended Huron & Erie. Dr. Eccles present for the 1st time since his partial stroke. Aubrey and Innis left for Ottawa and Montreal this evening after a very enjoyable re-union.

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James Porteous, Locomotive Engineer of the P.M. died to-day. They have been our neighbors for over 20 years.

THURSDAY Dec. 27th. Made a provisional tender for gravity filters to I.M.B. they to supply material.

Made a start on nosing furnace to-day which worked off fairly well notwithstanding the exposed position.

Attended Canadian Club luncheon to welcome Hugh Niven D.S.O. M.C. Kept my feelings under way as he had seen both you and Woodman since I have.

Morgan and family arrived back from Montreal safe and sound several hours late. Have snow enough for sleighing.

FRIDAY Dec. 28th. Paid \$2946. to 196 men including \$1463. piece work. Called to see my old friend James Porteous. Funeral will take place on Sunday. Letter from you and Sarah before you left for Nice, France.

SATURDAY Dec. 29th. 7 below zero. Bright and clear. Paid \$1500. to H. Hayman on account of mounting shop, total to date \$4500. this is more than half.

Paid \$96.90 for your Insurance to the Mutual Insurance Co. Waterloo (Ins. \$3000.) Paid \$179.50 for my Insurance due on the 16th.

Board met and decided not to extend Mounting shop for new Blacksmith shop West 46'8" for \$1980. which we consider altogether too high. Phoned Mr. McBride to hold plans for the present. This item I have not made you aware of but we have been considering it for sometime and is the portion covered by the S.I. roof used lately as a storage for shells and ~~black~~ and carpenter shop. We will look into the matter when weather moderates a little. This month so far has been a terror on fuel. Very little doing in the office. Will tender to the Imperial Oil Co. Sarnia for 2 - 25 H.P. Ret. Tub. Boilers at 25 on our list. We have one boiler in stock and can make the other in ten days. Did not go down to office after lunch, spent the evening in the library and firing up.