

No 1 Canadian General Hospital
B.E.F.* France July 14 / 17[†]

Dear Mrs McArthur

Today I received such a perfectly lovely box of "eats" for which I thank you. Everything in splendid condition and Oh how good it all tastes! Really you have no idea how I appreciate you thoughtfulness The fruitcake is simply lovely and the cookies – well I was selfish enough to want to eat them all myself but of course did not. When a box arrives Your friends simply stand [?] and there the Oh, Oh's begin. "Isn't this lovely" "Just like home" etc etc etc. The candy is delicious & almost gone. The tea & butter we sample tonight –

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It came in such good time too Imagine yesterday being my birthday & the box arriving today!
Last night 2 girls gave a luncheon for me in their room. Miss Nesbitt – Ottawa & Miss Turner – Niagara I think they gave a wonderful spread In fact I have no idea how they ever got such good things For instance Lobster salad with Mayonaise Then Tomato cucumber & lettuce with French dressing thin bread & butter. Olives a cake with candles on it strawberries & cream (canned of course) & Tea. Really we were simply groaning we ate so much. The poor girls must have paid a few dollars for it all. Everything one gets here must come from Paris You know that is above rations

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Then they made speeches Toasts you know

* British Expeditionary Force

† Written on H.R.H. Princess Victoria's, (of Great Britain & Ireland) Rest Club for Nurses letterhead

drank my health (Tea) and finally one made a speech & presented me with two lovely picture – Cathedral at Rheins[‡] and Cathedral at Albert Simply gorgeous pictures I was of course overwhelmed Imagine the dear things being so good to me. The matron came in for a few minutes & tho everything lovely. Do you not think I am blessed with friends really I do not know any girl who has received more kind attention from her friends than I. I am thankful to be sure. I also received a

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a very pretty french embroidered handkerchief and candy earlier in the day. Now I suppose you wish for pity sake I would say something about "the War" well I do not know what to say. Today's Communique says the fighting is more severe than at any time since the commencement. The men are optimistic and we hope that peace will come in the near future. I have seen so many guns, wagons, ambulances & men go up the line that now I almost want to look the other way. The other day as I was passing a camp of Germans and saw them out looking at us as we passed truly I feel so bitter I was ashamed of myself but as I thought of our men our Canadian boys who have given their lives here, found it hard to forgive. Perhaps they do not want to fight, but at any rate I am very glad there are no "germhuns" in the no 1 Canadian.

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I wish you could see the tanks They are wonderful such tremendous objects but then you have seen pictures and read all about them

‡ May be referring to Reims a French cathedral

I must go to dinner now, then out for a spin on my cycle We almost all ride here it is the only way of travelling I had one terrible fall really I thot I had a Blighty [?] surely. Two or three Tommy's came to my assistance and were wonderfully kind. Now I can get along very well.

Where is "Trooper Jack"? I wonder if he will come to see me I should like very much to see him. Donald has not

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written me for an age I begin to fear for him. I wish I had the Regt^s number of the boys over here then I could find them Bert Morrison told me that Gen. Gilchrist was in camp here but I have not been able to locate him which is to bad as I might be able to do something for the lad. As yet I have not met any Americans whom I know but no doubt many are here. I hear quite frequently from my class mates in Michigan and other parts of the U.S. There are quite a number coming over with a Detroit Base I would love to see some of them perhaps next year I may. Really sometimes I become desperate as I think of the duration when are we going to have peace? How long? How long? It costs a lot to be cheerful sometimes as I look at the ward full of men each longing for home sisters must alway be "merry & bright" no matter the cost. Kind regards to Mrs Campbell Spence & Day Love to Mayme & Yourself. Write me all the news As ever Euphie

^s Regiment

