

No 3 Can Casualty Clearing
B.E.F.* Belgium
27-10-17

Dear Mrs McArthur

I rec'd[†] your letter the same day as one from J.
in fact I rec'd 7 that mail delighted well rather
I awakened about 1:30 p.m. and found them some
one had bro[ugh]t them in and of course I did not get to sleep
again However it was worth it. now for several
days I have not had any.

The boys went over the top yesterday and report
has it all objectives taken of course we are mightily
pleased there had been a terrific bombardment on
for two or three nights so we expected it I did
not receive any of our boys They will come in
the next "hop over" I expect. we all dread it too
altho we will be glad to care for the laddies from
home for their sakes as well as the homefolk. We
have had no opportunity of serving them before I
intended going to —— This morning when I go off
duty and hope to meet someone. I intend looking out
for Donald & Ernest McG. I fear they are in the line
however. In getting a ride on a Lorry the other day
I met a boy from Collingwood Steele poor boys there were
both so glad it had been months since they had
spoken to an English women & the first Can sister ever.
I do feel sorry for the lads so far from everything
and such hopeless mud. Are they downhearted? No!!

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I saw a Boche[‡] machine brot down one day my
word we were delighted I wish all we see could
be bro[ugh]t down However I was glad to see one
This is a very beautiful morning
Monday 4:00 a.m.
This is almost the first spare time I have had

* British Expeditionary Force

† received

‡ used as a disparaging term for a German

tonight we have been receiving and the boys have
been very cold. I have five ready now to be operated
on so that is worth while.

The guns have kept up a terrific roar all night The
earth shakes with the explosions all day yesterday
it was the same The fighting is stiff alright
and our boys are doing splendidly. Flanders fields
are seeing terrible things and we all of us
are sick, nauseated with the horrible sights.
I love my work, the opportunity which I have here
To me it is a sacred place, men everyday giving
their lives here Oh it is cruel. We who have seen will
never forget you who have not seen be thankful
These last hours with these men have been a
revelation to me, they are splendid I see the
real man no pretence now and home means
so much to them

now I must go

Love asever

Euphie