

- A. – army
- P. – post office
- O. – office
- S. – section
- 4.*

No 3 Canadian C.C.S.† B.E.F‡

Dear Mrs McArthur§

It seems ages since I last heard from home truly I think it is about four weeks perhaps I will get a bundle about tomorrow. I sincerely hope so. I am on night duty – my first night and on what is supposed to be the “hopeless ward” so you can imagine or try to just what I am doing. I know you cannot really have the faintest idea. The poor boys and their poor relatives a chap just now said “oh sister it is a cruel war” and I fully realize it. We are fighting in a splendid cause and we are paying a terrible price If I am not careful censor will be after me and that will never do.

Fritz says he hopes it will soon be over and they all seem quite glad to be prisoners and go to England. We call them the “unspeakable Hun” but when we have them wounded & suffering they are only human beings of course our Tommy is always first Our splendid Tommy’s they are of the best. I would not have missed this experience up here for a great deal Imagine when the “Big Advance” began and

[---page break---

the wounded began to come in (or pour in) in only a very few hours from the time the push started. It was wonderful. I worked 16 hours straight only snatching time for food then the rain began and for five days it came down in torrents almost. I wore my high rubber boots all the time. The

* Explanation of acronym written vertically

† Casualty Clearing Station

‡ British Expeditionary Force

§ Dates to 6 August 1917 based on internal reference to dates; Written on On Active Service with the British Expeditionary Force Y.M.C.A letterhead

first thing I saw one morning as I looked over the side of my cot was a small copy of the River St. Lawrence running under my bed across the tent. Thus the need of rubber boots. now it is fair and sunshine again and once more we all smile. I wish you could have heard the bombardment the night of July 30. It was terrible. Just like a terrific thunderstorm over head. Few slept and early a.m. the planes began to pass over going toward the lines I was a morning I shall never forget.

Tonight there has been a heavy bombardment too & tomorrow we will hear the result no doubt. I am so glad St. Julien has been retaken Ypres has a wonderful place in history has it not? Fritz was busy tonight also & dropped

[---page break---

bombs all around us but not on us. I held my breath for awhile wondering if the next would come thr[o]u[gh] the tent. we escaped O.K. and all is as before

Aug 7 well I see when long letters are out of the question I did not get an opportunity to finish this that night or last. After 12 hrs straight work every minute, one dies not feel like writing letters I can assure you. Especially as there is always a matter of great importance which must be attended to namely – dont be shocked – examine all our clothing carefully! You must know there are all sorts of “creepy Crawly” things on the men as they come from the trenches and the sisters rarely escape therefor we do not have to search long before we find – what we are looking for. I suppose right now you feel like putting this letter in the stove in case; but really you need not fear I am quite O.K. at Time of writing. Enough! I must go to bed. I am weary. Last night almost broke my heart. The poor brave boys. It is a good thing I came gradually to this – England – The Base & now C.C.S. but I never can get over a great feeling of sadness as I see the young men [?] go out we are paying such a price. It is all in the Divine Plan

however and I must profit by the suffering and sadness
Tell the homfolk I am O.K. Love as ever
I see Capt. Murray quite often Euphie