

B.E.F.* France July 7 1918

Dear Mrs McArthur

This is a really beautiful Sunday afternoon – almost like a Canadian day I am having the day off This a.m. I went to church a quaint little Presbyterian – church of Scotland on the Rue Bayard near the champ Elyesse. Quite a number of people attended service It was so nice to be with an audience of “English speaking” we had communion service

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and really enjoyed it. We sang several psalms and the old hymns we always sang at home. On our way home a little sister (from New Brunswick) said oh dear those old hymns made me a bit homesick “my sentiments too” thought I The pastor was a thin tall man somewhat like Dr. Fraser and preached very well. There were some Canadian boys sitting near us whom I would have like to have spoken too but did not have an opportunity

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we got home just in time for second lunch at 1. As I was very tired Ive had a wee sleep & now must write some letters. I am sitting in the garden it is quite pretty – high stone walls make it very secluded altho[ught] the babel of French voices may always be heard from the street. we are having a nice quiet time here we are really most

* British Expeditionary Force

fortunate in being out here
It is a golden opportunity we realize

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and are trying to make the most of it. I may soon go on leave again I think To Edinburgh[†] a few days in London of course. We are so uncertain these days that plans are useless Each day seems to being new horrors we are in sadness now over the loss of the Hosp. ship.[‡] so many of our sisters. Girls I knew so well Oh it is terrible! I cannot realize that those splendid girls are gone. Many had been at C.C.S.[§] have been thr[o]ugh shelling & bombing & now have had to give their lives.

[†] Edinburgh

[‡] H.S. Llandovery Castle. Two hundred thirty-four people lost their lives including 14 Nursing Sisters lost their lives when the ship was torpedoed the night of 27 June 1918.

[§] Casualty Clearing Station