

No 3 Canadian C.C.S.\* S4 B.E.F.†

Sept 7 1917

Dear Mrs Mc.‡

Well of course I would like a letter but of course I must wait for ever and a day. I'm scolding Jessie not you. Truly I begin to think I should cable only one letter from home in about 10 weeks. Now do you blame me for being a little peeved & becoming anxious. I know this is a busy time and Jessie is working harder than I no doubt I have not heard anything about the Canadians lately except paper talk we rarely get our own men here. Today I had an Officer from Victoria, B.C. sick not wounded. You see I am on the O. ward again. They are very nice; but I like Tommy's very much. The Boche§ has been giving us horrid times lately coming over all night with Bombs Of course we chase him or bring him down. The nights have been beautifully bright and splendid for raids. How would you like to be sleeping out in your orchard in a marquee suddenly a terrific noise awakens you – it is a bomb or many of them. You are

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awake instantly of course only to have the bed shake with the explosion as big guns are fired then Bang bang bang go the antiaircraft them rupu tap tap tap of machine guns all at once. If you are wise you grab you steel helmet which of course you have nearby Then run for dear life to the Dugout. Then with several inches of water perhaps you crouch. Gradually all becomes quite & back to bed you go. In the midst of a big snore act no 1 is repeated thus the night goes by. This does not happen every night but it has happened to tell the truth I have remained it\*\* bed through it all only putting my helmet on and waiting listening

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\* Casualty Clearing Station

† British Expeditionary Force

‡ refers to Mrs McArthur of Annan, ON

§ used as a disparaging term for a German

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to the whistle of the shells and the bursts of shrapnel. I think you know “whats to be will be” and being in bed or in the Dugout makes little difference. I hope this does not sound too blood curdling it is nothing to what the poor boys have to put up with every day. You are having serious times over conscription what are your views? I am sorry that Canada as a nation should find Conscription necessary, but I do not think it should be voted down thus saving those miserable french-Can who are causing it to be necessary. It is deplorable that the Young Men of Canada should be leaving the dear homeland & giving

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all on fields of Flanders etc. but war is war and we are in the Cause of Right and it it takes the last one of us why we must win The unspeakable Hun must know that Right will win. I am very very sorry for Canada she is passing thru a very hard time. The eyes of the world are upon her certainly.

The guns are pounding away but they do not keep me awake anymore that is the guns up the line not all around us as I described in the first part of my letter. These are a safe distance. When I can sleep thru this I wonder what I will do when I have a real bed with springs and out in the country with only the songs of frogs to disturb the stillness – what a dream.

Capt[ain] Murray is still here I see him once in awhile & he gives me scraps of O.S.<sup>††</sup> news we congratulate our selves on being from O.S. when we talk of & hear other talk of Bishop my word! he is a wonder, the officers are all extremely proud of him.

Give my best to Mayme. Kind regards to Arthur Arch & Jack also Mrs Spence Campbell & Day How is Mrs? where I had tea with Mayme?

Have not heard from Donald in ages. Where is Trooper?

Love Euphie

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<sup>††</sup> Owen Sound