

3 Canadian Stationary Hosp. B.E.F. * France †

Dear Mrs McArthur

Can you believe that Peace has really come!
I find it difficult as far as our work goes
we have not noticed any difference, owing to the
terrible epidemic of Influenza we are still
quite busy. We have been celebrating in a
small way, gave the patients a specially
good supper also had a very nice dinner
ourselves. The town was noisy but no big
celebration as you would have at home
not sufficient french people left to do very
much. Every house of course had a Flag or two
everyone drinking – Their favorite wine

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I went in to the small town in the evening by ambulance

->to see

what was doing. The C.O. ‡ matron, three officers
two sisters & myself made up the party. French
boys gathered around the car waved flags
& sang “Good bye-e” “Good bye-e” being the
only word they knew in English however as they
had the tune they cared not. Their idea
seemed to be to let us know we would be
going home to Canada right away. A party of
Jocks saw them, rushed up almost got
in our car in their excitement and
desire to shake hands all round. C.O.
major’s etc They were not caring for rank
that night. we were held up for quite a while
but finally got away. The town was quite dark
lights had been out for 4 years and I suppose

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the necessary things were not on hand now
when they might have light.
The boys in hospital took it all very quietly. They
dared not believe it “sister is it really true” is it
official” such were the questions. The news came

* British Expeditionary Force

† This letter is postmarked November 1918

‡ Commanding Officer

through about 10 a.m. and by evening they really
beleived it On one of my wards I think they sang
every song known to Tommy “Take me back to dear
Old Blighty” being most populat

The sisters I think thought mainly of home one
[?] say “Id like to be in Toronto tonight” another
Montreal another New York etc etc. Miss Kilbourn
and I were picturing main St Owen Sound. I
am rooming with Beatrice Kilbourn Just now
At present I am on night duty officers ward
It is very very cold really more like January
than November Everything frozen solid in

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morning water in Hot water bags, bread in the kitchen
etc etc. I suppose our work will greatly
decreased now since the fighting has ceased at
present we are busy with Influenza patients.
Poor boys it does seem wicked after 4 years of war
to be suffering and dying as they are from this
awful “flu” I was sick about two weeks ago
in fact not really better yet. but much better
than I was. I contracted it while up at
Cambrai and the trip coming here did not help
very much. For a few day I was very much
afraid I was in for a really serious illness
at the same time I had a bad throat and
was given Diphtheria Antitoxin. my throat is
quite O.K. again. Do not be alarmed it was not
Dip. they just “got the wind up”

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Only a month until christmas I wish I
was going to spend it at home, however
next year might to see us together once more
I wonder when we will be sent home –
no one knows; but everyone hopes soon. It
will be wonderful to have Peace for christmas
Oh I am so thankful and I know you are
I feel as though I could not live through
another winter of fighting. The last few
months especially I had become so heart
sick at the sound of those guns. I used
to wake up at night and think Oh if only

they would stop. Every day seemed harder than the last to go on duty only to see more wounded being brought in Do not think

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I was tired of doing my bit no I was only sick of the suffering, groans, aches and pains. now to think of it really being over brings a big lump to my throat where is Jack? Still on training I suppose I am so glad for you he will not need to come over now.

Mayme wrote me such a nice long Letter awhile ago I certainly appreciated It, letters are so precious you know. The little box I sent you was for you. The Other addressed to Mayme was for her but sent much later than yours. It was not much but thought you might like the

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scarf and she the beads They are worn so much in Paris
11-18 8p.m.

At this stage of my letter I was either too sleepy to continue or decided someone needed me at any rate it remained unfinished

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I must make one final effort and finish This. I must have told you that I have been with the British. This summer if I repeat why forgive please Truly I cannot remember from June until August I was down at St. Cloud near Paris then I was sent to Abbeville received order there for St. Pol. From there I went to 45 C.C.S.[§] between Doullens & Arras after being there a few week we moved beyond Cambrai only a week after our Canadians had taken the town.

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while up there I saw Albert Bapaume and famous Vimy Ridge also many interesting

things such as German Tanks, guns, wagon etc etc. The towns had all been occupied by the Hun only a few months or weeks before and their signs and notices were everywhere I have had really quite as good experience over here as anyone I know almost Now for christmas I wish you the very greatest happiness – to have your family together and a truly peaceful time. May the new Year bring you prosperity and all good things Above all may it be a year of Peace and Thanksgiving. The old wish covers all a merrie christmas and happy New Year
Best love
Greetings to your sister & the Phillips family Euphie

[§] Casualty Clearing Station