

San. Jose April 27th 1916

My dear Father:-

The sad news of Ed's death reached me last evening. First came a cable from John and shortly after I received yours telling me that both Ed and Clark Kennedy had fallen together.

As I reached my room after work I was handed the daily wireless message of the United Fruit Co. The last paragraph of which was as follows

"London April 25 1916 The fight on the ground where the Germans penetrated between Steenstraal and Langemarch still continues. Losses along the line laid bare the left wing of the Canadians, which was forced to fall back in order to keep in touch with the right wing of the main army. In their retreat the Canadians 4.7 guns had to be abandoned and consequently fell into the hands of the enemy. Later the Canadians made a most brilliant and successful advance and succeeded in recapturing these guns and taking numerous prisoners. The Canadians suffered many casualties, but their gallantry and determination

undoubtedly saved the situation, and his conduct cannot be too highly praised."

I had just read this when Mr Brown came in and gave me Johns cable.

"Edward Killed in Action"

I sent you a cable before yours was received.

It is awful to think of. but again Father we are here for a few years only and all must go. What a glorious ending to a life that was lived as a man could hope to live. He lived a life that made all his friends just proud of his acquaintance and died the death of a soldier fighting for his country and for the right.

When it has happened as it did it is nice to think that if they must fall those two noble friends had fallen as they had lived so long, side by side.

I will be very anxious to receive any details you may be able to get. and I want some small thing of his that I can carry with me always. So I can look at it and ask myself am I living my life as he would live. I was very sorry to hear that Father

been so ill and hope she is
now better.

I must close now and will write
you later

Your loving son
Fred.

San José, Apr. 27, 1915

My dear Father:

The sad news of Ed's death reached me last evening. First came a cable from John and shortly after I received yours telling me that both Ed. and Clark Kennedy had fallen together.

As I reached my room after work I was handed the daily wireless message of the United Fruit Co., the last paragraph of which was as follows:

"London, Apr. 25, 1915. The fight on the ground which the Germans penetrated between Steenstrate and Langemarck still continues. Losses along the line laid bare the left wing of the Canadians, which was forced to fall back in order to keep in touch with the right wing of the main army. In this retreat the Canadian's 4.2 guns had to be abandoned and consequently fell into the hands of the enemy. Later the Canadians made a most brilliant and successful advance and succeeded in recapturing the guns and taking numerous prisoners. The Canadians suffered many casualties, but their gallantry and determination undoubtedly saved the situation and their conduct cannot be too highly praised."

I had just read this when Mr. Browne came in and gave me John's cable "Edward killed in Action." I sent you a cable before yours was received.

It is awful to think of but again, Father, we are here for a few years only and all must go. What a glorious ending to a life that was lived as a man could hope to live. He lived a life that made all his friends justly proud of his acquaintance and died the death of a soldier fighting for his country and for the right.

When it has happened as it did, how nice to think that if they had fallen those two noble friends had fallen as they had lived so long, side by side. I will be very anxious to receive any details you may be able to get and I want some small thing of his that I can carry with me always so I can look at it and ask myself am I living my life as he would live. I was very sorry to hear that Mattie had been so ill and hope she is now better.

I must close now and will write you later,

Your loving son,

Fred

San Jose, May 2nd, 1915

My dear Father:

I have just received your letter of Apr. 18 in which you quote me Ed's letter of March 28th. His letters are so like himself, "I hope and pray we do well, our men will, I am sure, and I only hope we officers do our share."

If the other officers did their part as well as he did his I know there was no fault found and I am sure the Highlanders had as fine a set of men as any of them. I am keeping your letters and I like to read over his letters from time to time. X He was a son and a brother we will be proud of. There never was such another. † Please be sure to send me copies of any letters you received after his of March 28th and any information you receive about the battle.

I was very glad to hear that you were now over the Gripp. I know you will bear this great sorrow without any outward sign of grief but must remember that it would be Ed's wish that we did not sorrow over his death but that we would look with pride at the noble life he had led and the noble death he died.

I was glad to hear that Aunt Hattie was getting much better now and I hope Nellie will be feeling entirely rested and better before this. I am very glad you have told me of the conditions as they are at home. I had hoped that things would be better but as they are not I am glad that I know it. It is not right that you should have to live with such a woman. I should think a separation would be the best thing but would not have you do anything on my advice. Perhaps if things keep so bad in Mexico Stanley will be north soon and he could talk the thing over.

Tuesday is Nellie's Birthday. I am sending her a cable of greetings and a letter on that day.

With much love,

Your affectionate son,

Fred.

San Jose May 2nd 1915

My dear Father:

I have just received your letter of April 18th in which you quote me Eds letter of March 28th. His letters are so like himself.

"I hope + Pray we do well, our men will I am sure and I only hope we officers do our share"

If the other officers did their part as well as he did his I know there was no fault found and I am sure the Highlanders had a fine a set of men as any of them. I am keeping your letters and I like to read over his letters from time to time. He was a son and a brother we can well be proud of. There never was such another. Please be sure to send me ~~any~~ copies of letters you received after his of March 28th and any information you receive about the battle.

I was very glad to hear that you were now on the Gripp. I know you will bear this great sorrow with any outward sign of grief but

Must remember that it would be
wish that we did not sorrow over
his death but that we would look
with pride at the noble life he
led and the noble death he died.

I was glad to hear that Aunt Kate
was getting much better now and
I hope Nellie will be feeling
entirely rested & better before the
I am very glad you have told
me of the conditions as they are
at home. I had hoped that they
would be better, but as they are
not I am glad that I know it.

It is not right that you should have
live with such a woman. I should
think a separation would be the best
thing, but would not have you do
anything on my advice. Perhaps if they
keep so bad in Mexico. Stanley will be
north soon and he could tell the
thing over.

Tuesday is Nellie's Birthday. I am sending
her a cable of greetings and a letter
that day.

With much love

Your affectionate son Fred

I am yours May 9

My dear Father:

The Montreal Star of April 26th has just arrived giving the first details & have told of the Battle of the 24th and 25th.

It is terrible to think of the fine lives that were given up here what a noble death those brave men died. They undoubtedly saved a situation which would have given the enemy an advantage that it might have taken months to get back from them.

The Montreal Star of the 26th of 1914 says "Major Edward C. Macdonald had been in charge of the firing line of the 13th Battalion since it went to the front and won for himself an enviable name as a cool and courageous officer."

We may well feel proud of him he excelled in this as he had always done in everything.

If you have not a copy of this paper you should write for one, in which are the pictures

of the Montreal officers among
the killed and wounded.

I received last night kind
letters from Fred Ross, Norman
and one from Sara and John
and have had so many kind
words of sympathy from
here.

I was glad to hear from
James that Mattie was better
and able to be sitting up again
I hope Nellie is feeling quite
better now.

Mr. Galt has not yet returned from
his holidays and it leaves me
very busy at the office, I expect
him back in about two weeks
now however which will
give me more time on the out
The Raining season has now
started and we will have rain
every afternoon with very few
exceptions for the next 8 months
we are glad to get it at first after
long dry spell but one gets
tired of it before it is over.

Hoping that you are well your aff
Dear

My dear Father:

It's so long since I wrote you I'm quite ashamed. I have had a very busy time of it though. The adjutant has been away on leave and the orderly room sergeant was sent to Hospital within the same week. We have been in the line twice in this sector now and the Battalion is coming out to-morrow. I have been out two days attending a court martial and am staying at our transport lines which remain in the same place while the Battalion moves up and down from the line as long as they are in this district. I had a card from Stanley yesterday saying he was back with the Battalion again as O.C. while Col. Cantley was away. That is fine and it makes one very proud to hear what everyone says about Stanley. They all think he is a wonder

As you will learn from a cable I am sending you to-day, John is on a course of general instruction at the 1st Army School, which will last a month. He felt as if he would like a little more instruction with the infantry before he should go in the line with his platoon, so as soon as a vacancy at the School came along I got his name in.

We have had a lot of rain which has made the trenches very muddy, but with thousands of men working on them all the time they keep them in pretty good shape considering. The weather so far has not been as cold as you would think and the men are able to put up with almost anything.

I have been getting the socks you have been sending and like them very much. I was getting low some time ago but have an abundant supply now. Got a package of apples and another package of cookies, cakes and

- 2 -

nuts from Hattie, Sara & James. I'll write them as soon as I get a chance. We saw a very funny sight the other day in the line. Our Dugout was in the back of a hill about 300 yards from the front line. We were looking down the valley when we saw a mule come wandering up towards us. Two of the men got out of the trench and tried to catch him but it was no use. Up the hill he went and in about an hour the Hun started a bombardment of rum jars. The old boy didn't like these very much so off he started on the run but they fell in front of him and turned him back then all around he was running, first one way and then the other for 15 minutes. Then up went his tail and he started back on the run.

Have just seen our brigade orders in which the 73rd Battalion have been commended for good work in our last tour by the corps commander.

I will write oftener now.

Your loving son,

(Sgd) Fred

Jan 10 16

My dear Father:-

It's so long since I wrote you I'm quite ashamed. I have had a very busy time of it though. The doctor has been away on leave and the orderly room strength was sent to hospital within the same week. We have been in the line twice in this sector now and the Box is coming out to-morrow. I have been out two days attending a court Martial and am staying at our transport lines which remain in the same place while the Box moves up and down from the line as long as they are in this district. I had a cook from Stanley yesterday saying he was back with the Box again as O.C. while Callantley was away. That is fine and it makes one very proud to hear what every one says about Stanley. They all think he is a wonder.

As you will learn from a cable I am sending you today

John is on a course of general instruction at the 1st Army School which will last a month.

He felt as if he would like a little more instruction with the infantry before he should go in the line with his platoon so as soon as a vacancy at the School came along I got his name in.

We have had a lot of rain which has made the trenches very muddy but with thousands of men working on them all the time they keep them in pretty good shape considering the weather so far has not been as cold as you would think and the men are able to put up with almost anything.

I have been getting the socks you have been sending and like them very much. I was getting low some time ago but there is abundant supply now. Got a package of apples and another package of cooking cake, nuts from Mother Sma's Jones. I'll write them as soon as I get a chance.

We saw a very funny sight
the other day in the line,
Our Sergeant was in the back
of a hill about 300 yds from
the front line, we were looking
down the valley when we
saw a ~~man~~ mule come
wandering up towards us
Some of the men got out of the
trench and tried to catch him
but it was no use, up the
hill he went & in about an
hour the Hun started a
bombardment of Rum Tars
The old boy didn't like these
very much so off he started
on the run, but they fell
in front of him and turned
him back then all around
and he was running first
one way & then the other for
15 minutes then up went his
tail and he started back
on the run.

Have just seen our brigade orders
in which the 7th Bn have been
commended for good work in
our last tour by the Corps Commander
I will write of this now.
Your loving Son Fred.



73RD BN. ROYAL HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Aug 11 1916

My dear Father:

was so glad to get your letter of July 2nd and to hear that you had had a pleasant visit to Montreal. So John is off to Halifax. It is likely he will soon be over here for the artillery so nearly all this training in England.

Our long period of training is now over and we move to-morrow. You will no doubt see it in the papers before you get my letter.

We were reviewed by Sir Sam Hughes and Mr. Lloyd George on Monday. I'm enclosing a copy of his (Lloyd George's) speech.

There is not the least bit of excitement about the whole division moving



ALLIED WITH
THE BLACK WATCH
(ROYAL HIGHLANDERS)

73RD BN. ROYAL HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

so different from what is was in
Montreal. Every one takes it just as if
they were getting ready for a route
march. In the whole Battalion I think
there are only two men who don't want to
go. and they are both being taken.
There are about 60 who for various
reasons are left behind in the base
Company. Some in Hospital, some too old,
one or two too young, some had feet etc.
one or two being some of the poorest
which were dropped to bring us to exact
war strength.

These men hang around first one
Company Office and then another when
off parade to see if there is not some
change at the last minute so they can
take another and they are all crazy to be the
one taken.



73RD BN. ROYAL HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

when you think of the dangers these men will be up against you can hardly imagine why they are so anxious to go but its the same with every body. we are all counting the hours till we get there.

I note from your letter that Mary is going on her usual Holiday. I had a letter from her last week also telling me about her intended trip and all the news of Montreal.

It was a great surprise to me to hear that Norm was engaged. I heard it from John also. I have not had a letter from Norman since I was in Montreal. when he wrote me of his mothers death. I wrote shortly after and again before I left but have only had two cards from him.



73RD BN. ROYAL HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

which both arrived last week.
Stonley's wedding was a great success
I got in for the day and then again
for the weekend and saw him off
Monday morning. after which.
Mr Reynolds, his Mexican friend who
is home wounded in the hand, & I
took Georgie & Biddy her little sister
out to Cambridge where Reynolds went
for a few years. We had a very
interesting day returning to London
about six after which I caught a
train for Braunschweig.
I thank you very much for the arrange
you made with the N.T. Co. for the ^{meats} 1000⁰⁰
I have drawn on them for \$210⁰⁰ which will
be the amount of the cement dividend on
my 70 shares if they pay 3%.



ALLIED WITH
THE BLACK WATCH
(ROYAL HIGHLANDERS)

73RD BN. ROYAL HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

I have paid all my bills and
owe nothing now except for a new
jacket I had made for the wedding
for which they have not sent the bill
yet although I have asked for it.
When I get it I'll send a check so I
will be clear.

I sent one trunk to Mr Kerr Bank of Mr.
and another one and a valise was
sent on yesterday to Shoo Cook Bros
London where most of the officers
are having their things stored.

Hope you are keeping well.

Your loving son
Fred,

1700

France Sept 16/16

My dear Father:

Please excuse Paper its all
gone to hand now when I get a chance
to write.

Am still at the Divisional School
looking after the bombing and
seem to be getting on ok. for they
canned the officer in charge of
Machine gun and I'm still here
I would just as soon it had been
me who rejoined my unit though
for I am getting fed up with this
job. and would just as soon be
back again in the rain at the
trenches and be with the officers
of our own Bn. We have some
fine fellows in the 73rd and one
hates to be shunted off away from
all your friends. Our Bn was in
the trenches for 12 days out for 4
and are now back again. but
we have been very luck only having
two men killed and two wounded in the
trenches all this while. Many of the
other Bns. in our Division had not
fared so well. They pull all kinds
of stunts off on the Hun in this
district and keep him pretty busy
It is wonderful the no of shells we
are sending over to him these days.
I should say 20 to his one but
a great many don't take effect of
course. but it keeps his men on
their nerve. Night before last
our Division took 22 prisoners by
raids carried out at different places

They all seem quite glad to be taken
aid I don't doubt but a good
many would come over on
their own account if they
thought they could get into
our hands alive.

Sept. 25th

Was just ordered off to the 2nd Army
Baking School with all the baking
instructors I had to take a course there
so all 2nd Army schools would be run
alike.

I have finished the course and passed
the exam alright and am now
waiting in a little French village
for two days till our Bn. comes up
as they are on the move. And our
School temporarily closed. So I join the 7th
again. I am billeted in a Priest's house
and am alright. He has a good table
and plenty of wine.

They have just brought in an English
paper and I see Stanley is wounded.
I do hope it is just a Blighty and
that after he gets a good rest he is OK.
Again, I have no way of finding out
till our Bn. comes up. Tomorrow
when I expect there will be some
word and also something from John.
I will then be able to put down
progress is being made with his Womfing.
I'm sending home some snap shots
I don't want to carry around. Take any
you want and keep the rest till I
come back. Hope you are well.
Your affectionate son
D. G. H. [unclear]

GREAT NORTH WESTERN CABLEGRAM

GEO. D. PERRY, GENERAL MANAGER.

Received at

11

11 Cable

San Jose on Sept 13

Horsworthy,

Ingersoll Ont.

1915

1042

Arrive New York Metapan twenty eighth joining Canadian forces

From

He went direct to Montreal
and entered - then proceeded
to Halifax via St. John's
at the Military College -
He has been in command of
the 73rd Battalion
in Montreal - went over sea
with the - continued, and took part
in all engagements of the battle
and was killed in action at Vimy Ridge 29/4/15

1042

France, Jan. 20

Dear Stanley:

I believe our Battalions were out to billets about the same time last trip and not far apart either, but you were away on a C.C. course so I didn't go over. I hear there is not much chance of Lt.-Col. Cantley coming back. Is there anything in it? We understand our Battalion is very likely to be broken up in the near future. If it is, there will be a few applications for your Battalion so you must do what you can for us. Howard Patch is still on this list. He has been acting as company commander for some months now and doing very well. He is still a sub but his papers are in for captain for some time, so he told us to-day he might put up another star while waiting confirmation of promotion. John and I will also be on the list. We are not much good but you always have to get some dead wood. In case you should get a chance to ask for officers, I'll tell you some of the good ones.

Capt. Howard Patch

acting Company Commander

Lt. H. H. Scott

Very Good Transport Officer

Capt. H. F. Webber

In England, injured, but due back any day now. Good P.M.

Lt. D. H. Christie

M.G. officer, very hard worker and I think pretty good

Lt. J. Orr

a Montreal Banker (very Scotch) was under in 13th as private, got commission and joined us

Capt. H. L. Stanley

C.O.C. Company, about 25 years old, very good company commander

Stations Jan 20

I believe our Bns
were out to billets about
the same time last trip and
not far apart either but you
were away on a C&O course
so I didn't go over.

I fear there is not much
chance of Col. Cantley coming
back to see anything in it.
As understood, our Bn
is very likely to be broken
up in the near future. If
it is there will be a few
applications for your Bn.

Do you doubt about what you
can for us. Howard Patch is
still on this list. He has been
acting as company commander
for some months now and
doing very well. He is still
a sub but his papers are in
for captain for some time. Sgt.
Bde told us to say he might
put up another star while
waiting confirmation of
promotion. John & I will
also be on the list. We are
not much good but you

always have to get some head
wind.

In case you should get a chance
to ask for officers I'll tell you

Capt. Howard Patch. acts coy edr.
Very good transport officer
in England injured but
due back any day now
good P.M.

Lt. J. H. Christie M. S. Officer very hard worker
& I think pretty good.

Lt. J. Orr

as private got Com. &
joined us.

Capt. H. P. Stouley
Sgt. C. Coy. about 25
years old very good
Bay commander

Lt. B. Gilman young but full of
confidence and very
good

Lt. S. Griffiths Has only had a Com.
short time joined us in
October. Think he was
Sgt Major. very good.

Lt. V. W. McLean very good

Lt. H. P. MacGregor " "

Let me hear what you have heard
about the breaking of our Bn
affectionately Fred.

C O P Y

France, Mch. 12

My dear Father:

We have been out for a rest for 10 days but we'll be going back in the line again in a few days. Our rest this time has consisted of three moves and one night in the line taking over from an English Battalion in the evening and handing over to another English Battalion in the morning. We also had the Brigade sports one day in which our Battalion won the finals in the foot-ball match, the shooting competition and the bombing competition--what I would call the three principal events.

The door opened a few minutes ago and in walked Hugh Hayles. He has come over to join the 42nd Battalion, but we are keeping him here to-night and letting him go on to join the 42nd to-morrow. He has reverted to Lieutenant to come over.

There has been a great kick put up in Canada about Montreal having so many Battalions at the front and not being able to supply reinforcements to keep them up to strength. Montreal has now 8 Battalions over here so it is likely the 73rd will be broken up and replaced by a Nova Scotia Battalion, in which case all the old 5th Royal Highlanders will be transferred to the 13th or the 42nd. John will make application for Cape Heavy Battery and I hope he can get in with them. I expect I will be able to get to the 42nd. I got another two pair of socks the other day and gave one to John. Thanks very much for them. This is John's birthday and we are having a little party to-night at dinner. Hugh Hayles happened along just in time to join us.

I think the winter here is quite over now. We have lots of mud again. Hope we will be home for next winter. We heard last night

- 2 -

that the British had taken Bagdad. I'm glad we are going ahead in a few places and it won't be long before we are pushing the Hun back in others as well.

Hope you are all well. I had a note from Hattie the other day saying that Nellie seemed to be much better lately.

Your loving son,

(Sgd) Fred

Feb 26 1941

My dear father
I am home in the
line again today but
am, looking forward to
a few days in Divisional
independence after this tour.

I had a primary course
while the Base was in support
this last time you were kept busy
but enjoyed the change very
much. The coming back to
to examine towns back of the
line as for an Army R.G.

The idea is to improve and instruct
officers and well as medical officers
the necessity of keeping
down the flies and dirt in
the surrounding area
weather.

Stanley has been in ^{camp} Reserve
for some little time now but
will soon be moving up
again.

John is very well. I had lunch
with him today at 12.30.

I write to both you and
Nellie the last time in as
have no news this time.

Must you see quite well. You
love you

directly over ^{II} our billet
and parts of the hundreds
of shells that we
shot at him were
sweeping around and
not struck the barn or
the house & ~~two~~ ^{one} lit
in the garden behind
the house. None of
our people were hit.
If you notice the order
in which I told where
the pieces lit you will
have the notation in which
all the french villages
houses burn from the
road. 1st at big barn
-built right on the
road with a large
part in the center of
the barn leading
under a hay loft
the barn yard in
which you always

^{July} France Nov 9. I
My dear Mother.

We are back
from the line again in
billetts in a quaint old
french village not out
of a range of forty guns,
but he put some shells
over the town last night
but we are in comparative
quiet for none have dropped
in here since we came
5 days ago. This morning
a number of Hun
Machines flew over
here and were engaged
by our planes & anti
aerocraft guns. Two of
his machines were
brought down & one
of ours. The enemy
planes at one time were

find a pond ^{III} about the
center where they
threw the manure to
rot & deep freeze.
Directly behind this you
get the house, with the
front doors facing
the pond, and at the
back of the house very
often a quite pretty little
vegetable garden.

Capt. Colonel was talking
to the Priest of the village yesterday
he being one of the few who
have not left the place.
and he was telling us
about a very mysterious
underground tunnel
that runs all around
under the main part of
the town. It seems when
this was started some of
the oldest men remembered
their fathers telling them

about being ^{IV} taken down
in the ground when
the town was bombarded
years ago and they
tried to find where this
would be but without
success. Finally they
decided that if there
was such a place it
surely must be under
the public square in
front of the Church so
they dug down there and
sure enough they found
it. The old entrance
had been through the
wall in the cellar of the
old stone Church &
this had been closed up
years ago. I went down
in it today with a flash
light & candles and spent
about half an hour
there but didn't explore.

half of it. It is nothing
but a mass of tunnels
through the chalk rock
with other tunnels
branching off in all
directions, and rooms
dug off the sides capable
of holding about 15 men
each. It was built
so the population of the
town could go down
there when the town was
shelled and no doubt
it has come in very
handy in this way.
When they were dropping
some shells over the
far side of the village
last night the old woman
& woman who live in
the house we are in started
off for the cellar as they
call it and invited us
to come along if we

Maclean in the centre of this picture was in the Bank of B.N.A. in Montreal and went over with the 13th as a private. He was on his way up to Ed. with a message from Headquarters when he met a wounded man coming back who said that Ed. had been killed with nearly all his men. He got his commission shortly afterwards and then went to England wounded. He was attached to us for a month while we were at East Sandling. Then went over to the 13th and is now home again wounded the second time.

(Sgd) Fred

