

that Nellie is enjoying  
herself out west. I  
refuse to believe you  
are sixty nine. That  
last trip we took  
to New York decided  
me that you were  
at least five years  
younger than I was.  
On the other hand  
I'm being rejuvenated  
myself, by Dr.  
Bruce Paylor's wit,  
so by the time I  
get back we'll be  
twins.

After much kicking



ALLOYED WITH  
THE BLACK WATCH

42ND BN. CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

ST MARTIN'S PLAIN,

SHORNCLIFFE, KENT.

20<sup>th</sup> July 1915.

My dear father,  
Just  
received your long  
and most interesting  
letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> and  
was much pleased  
to hear you had  
such an enjoyable  
trip to St. Thomas  
and Alvinston over  
your birthday and

We have been promised an increased issue of tents and I was informed that as Adjutant I could have one to myself. Needless to say, I immediately got that idea knocked on the head.

Dr Daylor has invested in a motor bicycle which is a source of great amusement to the camp and a novelty to his friends. To hear him lie in bed and ruminate on his hairbreadth escapes of the previous afternoon is killing and he has new tales of adventures each night.

I'm glad you have an offer for Ed's automobile as I've just become part owner of one over here, along with the Colonel, Major McCannan, and Captains Macdonnell and Molson, and will require to draw on my ac in Toronto for \$60. Do not let this interfere with your plans

week. First time was  
with Bover, and his  
wife and ~~his~~ two of his  
sisters who were down  
to say goodbye. as  
one of them expected  
to cross to France  
this week to nurse  
in one of the Red Cross  
hospitals.

Mr Peacock turned  
up on Sunday and  
invited the Colonel  
and me to dinner.  
As we were on our  
way to his hotel  
I had the good fortune



42<sup>ND</sup> BN CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

ST MARTIN'S PLAIN,

SHORNCLIFFE, KENT.

re the barrel purchase.  
My Brazilian shares  
are worth, even at  
present prices \$2,500.  
and Sir Frederick  
told me the Bank  
would loan against  
them if I required it.  
I have not cared  
to ask for any  
more London leave  
but dined twice in  
town (Folkestone) last

to run across Young Chaise who  
was one of my staff in Mexico.  
About a year ago we had him  
moved to Montreal where he  
enlisted as a private in the 20<sup>th</sup>. He  
is an only son and his mother  
is a widow. I am sure he was  
glad to see me.

It is now 10<sup>25</sup> which is late when  
you rise at 5<sup>30</sup> so I'll say good night.  
Royal Swing has just called across  
the table to say that if I'm writing  
to you he wants to be remembered.

Yours affectionately  
Stanley

I am sure you will be  
interested in the enclosed letter  
from Private Charlton. You may  
remember one of his letters  
was published in the Star  
which led to my writing him.

From Stanley  
17.8.16

My dear Father, I have to thank you for your letters of July 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and as usual am late in my acknowledgement. On my return to the Battalion on 1<sup>st</sup> August I found Capt. Strachan who had been acting adjutant during my absence, had been called back to Canada. He left the day following and as we went into the line almost immediately, I was more than usually busy.

We are now out again and the Colonel is off on a week's special leave to England to see his family whom he has not seen since we

sailed from Montreal on  
the 10<sup>th</sup> June last year.

Major Wefenden is still  
in England and is not making  
quite as quick a recovery  
as we had hoped. He is able  
to be about but tires out  
very easily. Captain Nelson  
our best company commander  
is also on three months leave  
~~to~~ with a wound received on  
2<sup>nd</sup> June and we miss him  
very much. Royal Ewing  
is a tower of strength to us  
~~however~~ and some of the younger men  
are coming on well.

Fred's battalion arrived  
last night in camp about  
three miles from here. I have  
written him a line but  
shall have no opportunity

to see him until after our  
next tour.

Georgie has gone back to  
her work in the Grenade factory.  
She writes that she is feeling  
much benefitted by her two  
weeks holiday and is  
not minding the hot weather  
so far. August is a trying  
month in fudon.

I am ~~sorry~~ to hear that the  
water is behaving so badly  
towards Nellie. It is a very  
difficult problem for you. I can  
offer no suggestion other than that  
Nellie should return to Montreal when  
Mary does and possibly get  
one of the St. Thomas girls down  
to stay with her if that were  
possible. If not, why not suggest  
Grace living with her for a while; as  
Grace and Marjory didn't pull extra



well it might be a pleasant  
change for them both.

The encouraging news from all  
the theatres of the war has put  
everyone in the best of spirits  
over here. Needless to say we  
all want to get home and  
will be glad to see the end of it.

Ever your affectionate son  
Stanley.

Major should know  
what course of  
instruction I have  
had at the schools  
have been very  
hurried. I had  
however had a year  
in France.

Major Botham is  
still my senior in  
the battalion. He was  
shelved by being sent  
to the base to train  
reinforcements just  
before we went to the  
Somme. It is a two  
months appointment so

4700  
Stanley

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL,  
LONDON, W.C.

13<sup>th</sup> October 1916.

My dear dad,  
You have  
learned from Georgie  
by cable of my  
arrival and of my  
promotion to the rank  
of Major. I am  
conscious of being  
ignorant of a  
great deal that a

can't say what the position will be  
when I return to the Post Office.  
Major McEwen I am sorry to say  
has not improved in health. He is  
still in Scotland. Herbert Malcolm  
has also had to leave his leave  
extended, much to his disgust. He  
is such a splendid fellow that I must  
restrain from quoting to you a  
paragraph from a letter which he wrote  
me on hearing I had been wounded.

"I had such a nice chat with you  
father some time ago and I told him  
lots of things about our life out there  
that were new to him. He is a wonder, and  
so full of grit and determination  
about seeing this war through. I can  
see now where his sons have got their  
many good qualities."

This gave me a great deal of pleasure  
you may imagine.

I must thank you for three letters  
received since I have been in hospital  
dated 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. The subscription  
to the War Loan is quite in order and  
I'm glad you took the step. The list of names

is being granted until  
this move is made. I am  
glad you were able to  
arrange to get him a  
commission and also  
that it can so readily go  
through in time for him  
to join the rest before they  
leave the base. I mentioned  
in a letter received

yesterday from Fred  
he said they were down  
there, had finished their  
special training and  
subjected to <sup>6</sup>interruption  
in a day or two. I do

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL,  
LONDON, W.C.

issued covers all the  
insurance I have. I am  
much obliged to you  
for keeping it in force.  
The only objection to the  
£500 transaction is the  
usurious rate at which  
you compute the interest.  
<sup>How can he see a shipwreck.</sup>  
John has not been to  
London yet. He wrote  
George that the battery  
expects to shift camp  
shortly and that no leave

must be very hard to have had that credit to the family under any circumstances, I am glad to say I haven't the shadow of a doubt. John will too, but the somme is a strenuous school in which to break in a new officer, so I hope when he arrives they will be back in some quiet district.

He really did accept <sup>of</sup> the well on the ground. We attacked to the west of Council Bluffs. Royal Ewing who is now acting <sup>as</sup> in command wrote me that

the Commander of our Division  
had used the Battalion when they came out and was most complimentary.

Casualties were seven & include two officers killed and twelve wounded, but fortunately most of the wounds are slight.

I am delighted that you were able to extend the hospitality of the house to my folks and I will write them as you suggest.

Georgia comes to see me. She is looking well and I'm sure would hug me and you her love if she knew I was writing.

Your affectionate wife  
Mary

is through and in the  
course of next week  
he will receive  
instructions to report  
to 17th Canadian Reserve  
Battalion at East Sandling,  
Kent. He is earmarked  
to go to the 73rd later.

Georgie will come  
to Hastings and put  
up at an hotel there.  
Besides the pleasure  
of having her with me,  
she attends to changing  
the dressing on my  
wound once a day.

Thank you very  
much for arranging

London,  
25th Nov. 1916.

My dear Father,  
I was  
boarded today and  
given one month of  
home service and  
leave on Monday for  
Hastings where I will  
be attached to the  
1st Canadian Casualty  
Training Battalion.  
I am perfectly fit but  
one wound is not  
yet completely closed up.  
John is here, looking  
very fit. His commission

the credit for \$1,000. in my favor  
with the National Trust Corp. Montreal.  
I think I shall be able to manage  
without it but it is useful to have  
available.

I have received your letters of  
Oct 29th, Nov 7th and 9th and hope you  
will be able to send favourable  
news of Nellie in your next. Are they  
keeping her occupied and able to  
get her interested in something?

We had a gal a day yesterday  
when Georgie, Elsie, John (Boyles) and  
little Elspeth and I paid a visit  
to the zoo. Elspeth is the liveliest  
youngster of 2 1/2 that I've ever known.  
Whenever she sees a fence she  
wants to climb it. Feeding bits of  
a bun to the Elephants was great  
sport for both of them.

As regards the two barrels of apples  
I have told Kerr to keep the No 2, for  
himself, and send the No 3 to Mrs. Sankey.  
If I find we could handle them at Hastings,  
I may countermand the order as regards Mrs. Sankey's

Your affectionate son  
He is a new acquaintance of Fred but no news to good news.

more than I like already.  
These Canadian papers  
come out here and little  
puffs which would go down  
all right in Canada, only  
sound ridiculous.

I am very much in earnest  
please keep my name out  
of the papers absolutely,  
from now on.

On 8<sup>th</sup> was day the B<sup>o</sup> was  
out of the line & had quite  
a successful dinner.  
The menu was drawn  
up in the form of an  
operation order and is  
quite clever I think. I  
enclose one herewith.

This part of the line  
is better from the point of  
view of security than

France

5<sup>th</sup> July 1917

My dear Dad, I am back  
with the battalion & in  
the absence in Canada  
of both Col. Cantlee &  
Major H. Cannon, am  
temporarily in command. It  
is a serious responsibility  
for a comparatively untried  
man but I have exceptional  
support in Royal, and Mr.  
and P. Beveridge at home  
Mr. Douglas, quartermaster  
& paymaster respectively who  
are probably the best in their  
jobs in the Canadian C<sup>o</sup>.  
Whatever you do don't  
put anything of this in the  
papers. There has been



to Lt Col G. S. Cantlie  
Sherbrook St west  
Montreal.

The other two are on this  
side.

where we were up north  
but not quite so good from  
the point of comfortable  
living conditions for the  
men. However, the Hun  
trenches opposite are  
said to be in even worse  
condition.

Ever your affectionate son  
Stanley.

Did you notice in the New Years  
honours list ~~X~~

Col Cantlie	D.S.O.
Major McFerman	D.S.O.
Capt H. Nelson	Military Cross
" G. K. Beveridge	

I think you might write  
a line of congratulations  
to Major B. McFerman  
350 Ontario Avenue  
Montreal

and



France  
20.11.17

My dear Dad,

I have now  
been six days on the  
Caietanading Officers  
Course which will finish  
tomorrow. It has been very  
interesting and instructive  
and a pleasant change  
from the trenches. The Corps  
Commander General Byng  
takes a considerable personal  
interest in it, attending to  
all the lectures and  
delivering several himself.

Yesterday we made a  
visit of inspection to the  
Corps School and I was

given a pleasant  
surprise at finding  
John there, taking a course.  
I had understood from  
Fred that he was at the  
Army School. I thought he  
was looking very well altho  
in fact he was off parade  
with a cold.

You will be interested  
to hear that Sir John Hughes  
brother, <sup>W. S. P. Hughes</sup> who was a Brigadier  
has been relieved of his  
command. ~~He~~

I have had no recent news  
of the Battalion. I return  
there tomorrow with  
a lot of affectionate  
greetings from  
your affectionate son  
John.

France,  
Nov. 1. 17.

My dear Father,  
Your very  
welcome letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> we  
have received last night &  
have now been back from  
my course two days. It  
was a fine breakfast  
and very fine.

Royal left yesterday  
for London and in days  
beats. This is his third  
leave (10 days each) during  
15 months in France. He  
is a very hard worker  
when here and I hope  
he will have good weather  
and a good rest.

My second tour has  
been too fortunate than  
my first in point of  
calmness. As regards  
weather and general  
health of the men it  
was better. The ground  
was frozen hard and  
the nights colder than any  
I remember ever out here.

except a short spell  
in December 1915. But the  
men prefer it to the rains  
both as regards sentry  
duty and living  
conditions in the dugouts.  
I am delighted that  
you are able to give  
me more reassuring  
news of Willie.  
It is gratifying that  
he is doing such  
enjoyment and  
appreciation of the  
Ridder life.  
I am returning the  
two letters writing you  
by the National Inflat-  
ed Major Alexander  
& am much obliged  
for the trouble you  
have taken in the  
matter and pleased  
that your views  
 coincide with my  
own.  
There is no special  
news of George. He is  
quite well. I know he

24-1-17

write you direct from  
 time to time. Her  
 attitude towards my  
 coming back to Africa  
 was splendid and I  
 feel very proud of her.  
 My youth & affection  
 always  
 Particular in  
 Battalion in England  
 is now commanded  
 by Ulean Mages - who  
 was probably the  
 most intimate friend  
 & made with him  
 in the Bank in London.  
 The wife and George  
 were determined to  
 have a school  
 for the girls. Quite a  
 considerable work it?

1<sup>st</sup> Feby 1917.

My dear father,  
I was delighted to get your letters of 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec a few days ago and to hear you had good news of Nellie and that you would be able to spend Xmas at home. I'm sorry you've been having a bad time with your teeth and hope you have got some relief. I have been extremely lucky in that respect. I had Jaine looked over at Shoocliffe in the summer of 1915 and some small fillings put in and haven't had the slightest trouble since.

For the first week after we came out to rest the weather was quite exceptional. Beautiful warm fine days that gave us a good start with our training and made everyone feel good. Lately it has been foggy and cold but so long as it doesn't rain there is no complaint.

I saw Col. McEwen about a week ago. He was in good fit. Royal Ewing is in London on leave. Walter Molson - a younger brother of Herbert's has arrived in France and will shortly be joining the battalion as a reinforcement officer. Walter, I and his brother the late Percy Molson were

on the Montreal Rugby team  
in 1906.

I had dinner last night  
with Allan Magee. You  
will remember he raised  
a battalion in Montreal  
but on arrival in England  
it was broken up for  
reinforcements. He was  
greatly disappointed but  
about five months ago  
he got a very good  
staff appointment but  
here and seems very  
happy in his work  
which has to do entirely  
with the intelligence i.e.  
collecting & distributing  
information from all  
sources regarding the  
Queen's dispositions  
and movements.

Georgie & Edward are  
fine. Mrs. Sankey was  
up from Bristol for a  
short visit with them  
last week.

I am feeling very fit  
myself, my only worry  
is that my faithful  
batman Grant is off  
to Scotland on leave  
tomorrow. It is <sup>seven</sup> ~~eight~~  
months since he was  
away on his last leave  
so he has well earned  
a holiday.

I shall probably not  
get across again for  
another six weeks.

I am liking my new work  
and surroundings very  
much.

Ever yours affectionately  
Stanley.

St. Maurice,  
18th Feby 1917.

My dear Father

Your letter of 10th Jan, was a long time on the road but none the less welcome. It was closely followed by one from Pabl. Leantlie dated 2nd Feby, in which he mentioned how much he had enjoyed seeing you and that you had travelled to Ottawa together.

Thank you very much for having deposited \$150- to my credit in Toronto.

X I am pleased to be able to tell you that during our last tour in the line we carried out a raid on the enemy trenches on our front which was successful quite beyond my hopes. Under



cover of an artillery  
bombardment we  
sent over two officers  
and forty eight men  
divided into four small  
parties. They covered  
the German front line  
for a front of 275  
yards remaining over  
for ten minutes. all  
dugouts met with were  
destroyed with explosives.  
On the right most of the  
Germans had taken refuge  
in their dugouts but on  
the left we met some  
opposition but the main  
party was dispersed and  
our entire party got  
back one severely wounded  
officer being carried  
back by Private C. L. Miles  
a young farmer  
from <sup>near</sup> Decheronte for  
whom I am trying  
to get a Victoria Cross.  
The net result was

directed operations from  
our front line and  
at 20 took an active part  
in the preliminary work  
it was, as usual, a very  
thoughtful sound scoop.

We are now in  
billets some twelve miles  
back of the line and  
very comfortable. Two  
days ago we lined the  
road while General  
Nivelle Commander in  
Chief of the French Armies  
passed through.

Georgie is well. She  
is living alone in rooms  
at 63 Meuseboro Terrace  
just north of Hyde Park  
in London, a few doors  
from the house from  
which we were married.  
She helps in the Red Cross  
which is a good thing,  
I think, as it keeps her  
occupied and from being  
lonesome and is much  
less strenuous than the

as follows

Dugouts destroyed 10  
Prisoners taken 2  
Mines killed  
in the trench (known) 10  
in dugouts (estimated) over 50

Our losses

1 officer wounded  
4 men admitted to hospital  
1 officer slightly wounded  
4 men back at duty.

I received congratulatory  
telegrams from General  
Sir Julian Byng, General  
Liffert, General Bodlum,  
General ~~Calan~~ Macdonnell  
our own Brigadier and  
the Commanding Officers of  
two other battalions. It  
has had a splendid  
effect on the morale of  
the battalion which  
really was my principal  
object.  
The arrangements went  
off without a hitch. Royal

Munitions work.

You will have received  
my letter written ten days  
ago in which I mentioned  
having seen both Fred  
& John. Captain Legatt  
showed me afterward and  
said he is doing his  
best to get John's transfer  
to his battery, but through.

With much love

Your affectionate son,  
Stanley.

Please treat the news I have  
given you of the raid as  
for your own information  
& not for publication.

our training is progressing fairly well, I think and the change is doing us all a world of good. I've not seen the boys since the one time I wrote you of but our padre met Fred in a nearby village and said he was looking fit.

Our football team has surprised us all by winning first the Brigade and then the Divisional Championship and a handsome silver bugle presented by General Lipsitt. So between that and the raid, our morale is high.

Georgie is well. He is still boarding in London but thinks of taking a small furnished house in Harrow near the Kerrs if one can be found.

I am very fit & well.

Yours affectionately  
Stanley.

France  
and March '17

My dear Father,  
The long delayed Canadian mail has arrived bringing me 2 our letters of Feb 5th (2) and 19th in which you enclosed a note of congratulation to our Quartermaster (Capt. Beveridge) which I may say pleased him very much.

I am delighted that you had such a pleasant visit to Montreal and especially that you met the McLeungs to whom Georgie and I are both devoted. I am much pleased to hear such good news of Nellie.

Nothing startling has occurred to us lately. In fact we have been having a very comfortable time this past fortnight - good weather and good billets and all our news of the war second hand, as we are well behind the line.

France

19<sup>th</sup> March 17.

My dear Father

Hugh Hoxley has just arrived to join us. You can imagine - how pleased I am. He has come out as a lieutenant which is very sporting of him.

Another old friend who is attached to us for a month's tour of instruction in the 1<sup>st</sup> Co. of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade formerly of the 1<sup>st</sup> London and 1<sup>st</sup> London Batteries, is now in Montreal.

My dear Fred is on his way to us. I hope they both looked fit. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion is not going to be broken up after all.

We are all in good shape as a result of a month in billets. My size is nearly up as yet for the man may be back any day now.

I am enclosing you photos one of our Pipe Band and one

of our Transport Officer, in old North West mounted policeman's uniform which will have some "kick" war isn't it? all the time.

George is well. Her mother passed through London this week on her way to stay with Alice who is at Woolwich on the south coast.

Wilfrid Gove is now over here. He is attached to Corps Headquarters but is in rather a minor position for his rank.

Yours affectionately  
Stanley

On reference to the censorship rules I have withdrawn the photos.

COPY

30th. March 1917

My Dear Father:-

I am staying at our Transport Lines to-night having come out of the line to attend Fred's funeral. Col. Sparling also came out, which I appreciated; none of the other officers could be spared. This I can fully understand. John was also present of course, he came back with me here to dinner and has just left. We are agreed that we must "carry on" and try to live up to the two splendid examples set us. You will have learned from our cable sent you through Bank of Montreal, London, that Fred was killed instantly by a high explosive shell which made a direct hit on the dugout which served as an Orderly room. The orderly room clerk and one of the battalion pioneers were killed at the same time, another clerk was seriously wounded and a battalion runner miraculously escaped injury although buried in the ruin and suffering from shell shock.

Fred has been buried in a British Officers Cemetery in a small Village six miles back of the line. I do not think the Censorship regulations permit of my giving you the name but you will be advised by the Graves Registration Committee which is a branch of the War Office.

Tell Father I am dreadfully sorry that this has happened but I could not help thinking as I saw the coffin wrapped in a Union Jack, that Fred has crowned a fine life with a fine end. That more could be said.

I never heard of anyone who did not like him immediately and he wore well. And the Bank, his New York Employers and the Tobacco Co. and above all I sincerely believe, his

commanding officer were very sorry to see him go. Col. Sparling stated that as Assistant and Acting Adjutant and as a Platoon Commander his work was most satisfactory and his men much attached to him.

I shall never forget our reunions in New York, will you? And at London when Georgie and I were married, he was fine, so tactful kind and thoughtful. Although he did not attain special prominence like Ed, his life must be accounted a fine success for he was "honourable and amiable in all his ways".

Things are going well with the Battalion and I am fit and well. John also looks well although without much colour.

Every year affectionate son.

Stanley.

in a sack, after five  
or six days, the woman  
was taken by the  
war office, but  
you will be advised by  
the Graves Registration  
Committee which is a  
branch of the War Office.

Well, rather I am  
dreadfully sorry that this  
has happened, but I could  
not help thinking as I saw  
the coffin wrapped in a  
Union Jack, that Fred has



Crowned a fine life with  
a fine end. What more  
could be said.

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who did not like him  
immediately and he  
was well. And the Bank,  
his New York employers and  
the Polanco Co. and above  
all I sincerely believe, his  
commanding officers were  
anxious to see him go. Col

Stanton stated that as  
Lieutenant & acting adjutant  
of a platoon, could understand  
his work was most satisfactory  
and his men much attached  
to him.

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reunions in New York. Will  
you? And at Tabden when  
George & I were married, he  
was fine, so tactful kind  
and thoughtful. Although  
he did not attain special  
prominence like Ed, his  
life must be accounted a  
fine success for he was

"honourable and amiable  
in all his ways".

Things are coming well  
with the battalion and I  
am fit & well. John also  
looks well although  
without much colour.

Your very affectionate Son  
H. J. [unclear]

30th Mch. 1917

My dear Father;

I am staying at our Transport line tonight having come out of the line to attend Fred's funeral. Col. Sparling also came out, which I appreciated; none of the other officers could be spared. This I can fully understand. John was also present, of course. He came back with me here to dinner and has just left. We are agreed that we must "carry on" and try to live up to the two splendid examples set us. You will have learned from our cable sent you through Bank of Montreal, London, that Fred was killed instantly by a high explosive shell which made a direct hit on the dugout which served as an orderly room. The orderly room clerk and one of the battalion pioneers were killed at the same time. Another clerk was seriously wounded and a battalion runner miraculously escaped injury although buried in the ruin and suffering from shell shock.

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Well, Father, I am dreadfully sorry that this has happened, but I could not help thinking as I saw the coffin wrapped in a Union Jack, that Fred has crowned a fine life with a fine end. What more could be said.

I never heard of anyone who did not like him immediately and he wore well. And the Bank, his New York employers, and the tobacco Company, and above all I sincerely believe, his commanding officer, were very sorry to see him go. Col. Sparling stated that as Assistant and Acting Adjutant and as a platoon commander his work was most satisfactory and his men much attached to him.

I shall never forget our reunions in New York, will you? And at London when Georgie and I were married he was fine, so tactful, kind and thoughtful. Although he did not attain special prominence like Ed, his life must be accounted a fine success for he was "honourable and amiable in all his ways."

Things are going well with the battalion and I am fit and well. John also looks well although without much colour.

Ever your affectionate son,

Stanley

5<sup>th</sup> April 1917.

My dear Father

I thank you very much indeed for your letters of 25<sup>th</sup> Feb and March 10<sup>th</sup>. It looks tonight as though the U.S. is definitely coming in on our side which I will be a great help morally and from a credit standpoint. I believe the war will be over before they are able to send an expeditionary force to this side.

The Battalion is in fine form. Since I wrote you last we carried out a raid which while on a smaller scale than the last was relatively even more successful. Our

unwounded prisoner and

Another I promised the very fine Xmas cake you will  
be soon here

returned to our lines with  
only one slight casualty.  
Major [Name] in his  
trousers and on his way  
to [Name] on arrival he will  
officially become C.O.  
of the Battalion but I would  
not wish it otherwise we  
are all enthusiastic for  
him as you know.

Hugh Hopley has finished  
his course and is returning  
to the Battalion today.

I have got a stone for [Name]'s  
grave and one of [Name]  
[Name] who is a stone cutter has  
begun work on it. I will  
send you a sketch later.

I am much pleased to hear  
you are arranging for  
the tablets, best of luck  
for [Name] [Name].

I think your idea of giving  
Hallie a little [Name] in the  
[Name] of [Name] [Name] is an  
excellent one.

George I am glad to say is  
well & [Name] [Name]

ideal father  
This is not a  
I'd like to see in  
way to improve  
10/1/47

Dear Mother  
Last evening about  
8:30 pm on my way back  
home I stopped at No 9  
Police Ambulance and I heard  
someone call my name, I  
saw your brother and he  
was in a chair in the ambulance  
and back I went into him.

He had some pain in his  
his wounds dressed. The doctor  
said that it would be classified  
as "light" then were two  
wounds on the top of the  
shoulder and back. Also call  
me and we had a good joke  
and mighty plucky.

I stayed with  
him until he left in the

ambulance to C.C.S.  
It was at No 9 for about 45 min  
but the C.C. said he would be  
leaving any minute so I  
had no chance to get over  
to the billet and receive some  
dry things for him.

Holland is having  
the P.O. to call your father  
giving the particulars so  
that he will be caused no  
unnecessary worry by exaggerated  
reports.

We are all very much  
in the dark as regards  
information and pick up any  
information you can  
Congratulations to man  
you all in carrying out  
your part and will not waste  
Billie

France

16th April 1917.

My dear Father,

Yesterday  
I rode over to Bahlin  
Cemetery where Fred lies  
and had a look at the  
stone which Capt. Goodridge  
arranged to have cut and  
placed in position. Up to the  
present it is the only stone  
in the military section and  
while not pretentious I was  
much pleased with it. The  
stone is dark gray and the  
lettering white and shows  
up well. The work was done  
by one of our pipers. I  
threw a sketch of it.

I have had no further  
news from him.

Major McManan arrived  
back on the 12th and left me  
in charge for the attack  
on the 13th as he was un-  
familiar with the ground.  
I think there is no chance

The Battalion did well. We went right through to our objective practically without a halt, but in and held on there although for 30 hours our rest was very short.

Our losses were about the same as in the previous fighting last year but the spirit of the Battalion is very different indeed and already I think we could go into a new action again and do creditably well.

Col. Traje's month with us is about up and he is to be attached to the Headquarters of our Division as a Staff Officer.

George has given me leave to tell you that about August or September you may expect to be a grand father. I am glad to say she is keeping very well. She spent Easter week at her old home in the very best of health.

Your affectionate son



France,

10th ~~January~~ 1907.

My dear Father —

Since writing  
you I have received many  
letters of all kinds and all  
the latter I enclose a few  
from Gerald which you may  
also had to know and to  
see he is still there and  
enjoying life at Middle and  
taking of band at night.

There isn't much news  
we have been in the line  
again but had a very good  
time and especially  
good weather.

George writes me that  
she has got word of the  
the small furnished house  
which we have rented at  
Cris Wood. It is a white  
in the north part of the town  
and only a few minutes by  
train from Harrow about  
the flats have moved.

Recently in order to part  
their only son to school.

She had recent news from  
John that he is expected  
within a week to be moved  
to London.

I hope that by now Mrs  
Brew has recovered from  
her illness and that  
Mellie is with her.

There does not seem to be  
presently any prospect of our  
immediately prospect of our  
ending of the war. However  
we must stick to it down being  
that the other fellow is  
probably more tired than  
we are. His losses, we  
know, have been  
proportionately higher.

Col. Sauter has written  
that he is not returning  
to France. Major St. Julian

with therefore advised when  
stop in rapid to place  
continue as soon as possible  
Our Board not asks for  
a better man to work  
the door.

I hope you are getting  
the same fine weather  
that we are having here.

Yours affectionately  
Stanley

Hugh Douglas is proving an  
excellent office. He is quite  
well. Elsie & John & Elizabeth  
have moved to Clifton (17  
Bristol) & will spend the  
summer there with my  
Sister. They are all fine.

## CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.'S TELEGRAPH

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 H. J. HOFFER, Station, Montreal, Que.  
 W. D. SMITH, Station, Montreal, Que.  
 A. C. FILLARD, Station, St. John, N.B.

W. MADDALL, Address Manager, Winnipeg, Man.  
 H. N. SMITH, Station, Winnipeg, Man.  
 D. J. H. SMITH, Station, Winnipeg, Man.  
 D. GARDNER, Station, Montreal, Que.  
 E. M. P. M. Station, Winnipeg, Man.

J. McMILLAN,

Manager Telegraphs, Montreal

France

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1917.

My dear Father

I was much pleased today to receive your very welcome and interesting letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> ult. telling me of your visit to Montreal. I'm glad you called on the McLeans. They are a splendid family indeed. The Major has been promoted I'm pleased to say to be Lieut. Col. It is a splendid thing for us having him back as he is a splendid soldier and universally admired and respected.

I also have good news

to give you regarding Royal.  
He has been given the  
Legion of Honour - Croix  
de Chevalier. This is the  
first foreign decoration  
to be awarded to the 42nd  
and we are all delighted  
that it has fallen on such  
deserving shoulders. It  
is a very good decoration  
considered better than the  
Croix de Guerre which C.K.  
has.

By the way C.K. called  
in to see us last  
evening. He is looking  
well and expecting  
to go to England on leave  
this week when Brigadier  
General W. Lowell on whose

staff he is returns. I am  
sorry to say his brother Alick  
has been killed ~~in~~ in  
the recent fighting. He was  
a fine fellow, resembled Ch.  
in many ways. I met him  
when I was in the Bank in  
London.

Hugh Hoyle is well. He  
has recently been appointed  
Assistant Adjutant: Royal  
as you know is adjutant  
and they make a very  
strong team.

I've no recent direct news  
from John. From the fact  
of his not being moved yet  
to London I conclude he  
is going along more slowly  
than he hoped.

Victor Gordon is in a London  
hospital - rifle bullet through  
both thighs and bladder but  
is reported doing well and  
very cheery.

Georgie is well and  
is now settled in the new  
house and much pleased  
with it.

I hope by this time Mrs. Biggs  
has arrived and that Nellie  
has been able to go back  
with her.

We are out of the line  
and comfortably situated  
and enjoying the  
excellent weather.

Yours affectionately  
Stanley.



France  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917.

My dear Father

Very many  
of my returns, I wonder if  
you have arrived in time to  
help celebrate  
there is not much news. We  
have recently had some  
moderate successes on our  
immediate front and the  
news that Russia has  
resumed her offensive is  
pleasing.

The weather lately has been  
not so unseasonably  
cold but we have had the  
good luck to be in support  
and not too uncomfortable.  
Today is more summerlike.

I refer across young  
Richardson this morning  
at the baths. He spoke of  
having seen John in  
London. I don't remember  
his name but he was in  
the Imperial Bank - a son

of Richardson the jeweller.  
He is in the French Quarter  
Battersea seems happy &  
looks fine though soldiering  
agreed with him.

Royal review is postponed  
on leave. I thought I was  
going this week but it  
now looks like the end  
of the month or early August  
before I go over.

Brig. Huxley and Col.  
McFarlane are both fine  
and I tell you Calcutta  
New Company's  
reserve battalion in Shoreham  
England.

My best to John  
Yours affectionately

Stanley

France  
25 June 1917

My dear Father,

Thank you very much for your messages of congratulation received through Georgie and for your letters of May 20th and 29th just arrived. ~~X~~ note the arrangements you are making regarding Nellie which I think are the best possible while she continues in her present condition. I hope the change from the Sanitarium will be beneficial. In any case it will be a break.

I am hoping to get over to you soon on 7 ten days leave next week. Will be soon to have missed you, I hope he is feeling better as Georgie wrote me that he did not look at all well.

Since the big raid a fortnight ago which was a great success we have been having a quiet time and I find a good deal of comfort in the situation. Not only has the Enemy made no effective reply to our victories of Vimy and Messines but even in the ordinary lull ~~where~~ in the line when both sides are content to hold their ground although inflicting loss on each other - we find him much less aggressive than a year ago. It is correct I think to say that he is beaten, altho not yet demoralized.

I had a wire of congratulation from Sir Vincent Meredith, also <sup>one</sup> from Sharp and a letter from Barker who is now in England with the <sup>2,370</sup> 20th Reserve Battalion but hopes to get out to France shortly.

Let me know how you and Hugh  
are both well and send  
you their regards,  
Yours affectionately  
Stanley

You omitted to enclose  
Walter & Roseworthy's letters.  
(Florida).

over to France  
very soon now.  
In the city I  
saw my old Bank  
friends; also had  
lunch with E.R.  
Peacock who is  
just back from  
Spain where he  
went in the  
interests of the  
Barcelona Light  
& Power Co. of which

he is President.  
I also met Lord  
Beaverbrook (Wau  
Witken) and dined  
at his country  
house. He gets a  
good many sticks  
thrown at him  
by Canadians but  
much of it is  
no doubt due to  
jealousy at his  
rapid rise from

Beaumont

nothing. His very  
unusual ability  
is now generally  
admitted. Ed. and  
he were business  
rivals and used  
to have rows  
periodically but  
they ended up  
good friends.

He saw Ed.  
frequently in  
England during

the winter of 1914/5  
and once in  
France. I found  
his reminiscences  
very interesting.

Georgie is very  
well indeed  
and her doctor  
assures me he  
is confident  
Everything will  
go right next month.

I am glad to say  
she is not nervous  
about herself;

She is not going  
out socially, but  
we took in a  
couple of matinees  
together and  
spent one very  
enjoyable day  
on the river and  
another at the



Kerr. They have moved to Harrow in order to put their only son to school. Kerr has been pretty thrifty all his life and in making the move he branched out a bit and has leased a very nice house

with a beautiful  
little rose garden,  
lawn and  
some fruit trees.

I was sorry to  
learn by your  
letter of June 24<sup>th</sup>  
that you had  
such a wretched  
cold. I hope it  
has quite passed  
off. The first  
box of sugar

reached 20 pieces  
all right and  
proved most  
welcome and  
useful. The second  
batch arrived. I  
made inquiry at  
both branches of  
the Bank

Thank you very  
much for your  
offer to meet my  
drafts on the

National Trust Coy  
Montreal. I don't  
think I shall require  
to draw just now.  
While in France,  
my personal  
expenses are  
very light and  
besides my  
pay I have an  
income of £100  
yearly from my

British war loan.

Georgie showed good judgment in choosing a house. It is in a high, healthy neighborhood and quite comfortable without being pretentious or expensive to keep up.

I am feeling very  
fit and ready  
for another  
winter in France  
if need be. I  
regard that as  
the probable  
maximum,  
with a possibility  
that we may see  
peace earlier.

I was glad to hear  
Kellie was feeling  
benefitted by the  
change to Manitoba.

How is John's arm  
progressing? Has  
he got someone  
to 'massage' it?

With much love

Your affectional son

Stanley

you had so enjoyable  
a visit with pain  
in montreal and  
hope the massage  
will soon have his  
shoulder quite fit  
Col. McFennan had  
a letter from his  
sister saying how  
much they had  
enjoyed your  
visit.

I had a line  
from C.K. this  
week. We are

France  
Aug 8  
Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1917.

My dear Father

I was

glad to get your  
letter of July 18<sup>th</sup>  
the other day. There  
isn't much news.  
We have been having  
a splendid rest  
and I don't think  
the battalion was  
ever in better  
shape.  
I'm delighted that



planning to pay a visit to-  
-gether to the St. Julien area as  
soon as it can be arranged.

There has recently been a  
change in command of Cks  
brigade. His new boss is

Genl Ross, originally from  
Embro but more recently in  
the flour milling business  
in Vancouver. I think his  
father was a

Ever your affectionate son  
Stanley

one's state of mind  
to throw it off, and  
of course the good  
fellowship of the  
42nd is a great  
antidote.

We are still  
resting. I am  
just back from  
a trip to look over  
some ground  
where it was  
proposed we  
should carry  
out some  
manoeuvres.

France

13 Aug '17.

My dear Father,  
Glad  
to get your letters  
of 26th July. Your  
letters are a great  
encouragement.  
One gets fed up at  
times, not with the  
hardship of which  
there's less than our  
friends at home  
think, but with the  
monotony. A great  
deal depends on

The idea had to be given up  
however, owing to the damage  
we would have done to crops.

I return herewith Walter  
Norworthy's letter. It is quite  
interesting. He is evidently of  
quite a serious turn of mind.  
I feel satisfied we shall have  
substantial help from the U.S.  
by next year if we don't get peace  
the year before.

Had to hear such good news  
of Nellie; also that John was  
able to work in a few days  
holiday in New York.

We are all feeling the benefit  
of our rest. Personally I was  
never more fit.

Georgie writes in cheerful  
spirits and of course we  
are both greatly interested in  
the young Norworthy expected  
within the next fortnight.

Ever your affectionate son  
Stanley

France  
14th Sept 1917.

My dear Father,  
Thanks  
for your cable of  
congratulations on  
the arrival of our  
boy; also your letter  
of 12th August just  
received.

Everything seems to  
be as it should be,  
I'm delighted to say -  
he seems a healthy  
little beggar and  
Georgie will be able to  
nurse him which  
they tell me simplifies  
matters very much.  
He is said to be a  
noseworthy in looks  
and he will probably

be named Edward  
Luthbert Villiers - the  
last name being after  
Georgie's father.

I'm not sure whether  
I have written you  
since I took temporary  
command of the  
7th Can Inf. Brigade  
Training Battalion. I  
was sent here for ten  
days but it has length-  
ened into three weeks  
and I understand  
I'm to remain for at  
least another fortnight.  
The Training Battalion  
was broken up last  
February and has  
just been reconstituted  
and it has been  
quite interesting  
getting things going again.  
We are in billets in a  
small village.

The battalion is out of  
the line again. I rode  
over and spent last  
Sunday with them. Everybody  
is cheery. Hugh Hoyle was  
just back from leave.  
He saw my boy when he  
was a few hours old  
and says he looks a  
fine youngster and that  
he has never seen anyone  
more proud and happy  
than Georgie. Royal  
is not just first rate. He  
fainted once during  
last tour; but is able to  
carry on and of course  
having Hugh back is  
the greatest possible  
help to him. Col. McFennan  
looks fine. Did you see  
that he was recently  
elected a director of the  
Royal Trust Co. His father

Hugh McFennan was a  
director of the Bank of  
Montreal.

Barker is in France.  
I called in and saw him  
on my way back on  
Sunday. He had rather  
a rough initiation as  
they were fairly heavily  
shelled on his first  
tour in the line.

I'm glad you had so  
enjoyable a motor trip  
with John. I was much  
interested to hear he  
is going on training  
duty to Schenectady  
next month. This is  
infinitely better than  
taking a so-called staff  
job in Canada.

Glad to have such  
good news of Gerald, Alma

and Budd. I don't blame Clarence for wanting to get out of Wallackeburg. I was there once for two days inspecting with Mr Winslow. I understand it is dead in winter and malarial in summer.

I'm so pleased you have such encouraging news of Nellie. I will try to get a letter off to her.

You're a cheery optimist getting the house ready for us. I hope you're right.

I hear from Benson that Victor Gordon has gone to a Convalescent home near Liverpool. A converted country house

of the Duke of Westminster. He has made a wonderful recovery. I'm going to ask him to be godfather to the boy, along with Hugh Hoyle and Elsie to be his godmother.

Reynolds (Mexico) writes me he has got his Captaincy and is 2/3 of a Divisional Signal Coy. His Division is now out resting after having done very well near Ypres I think.

I've not seen CK lately but believe they are still out resting.

Next time you're in Montreal and not very busy get John to motor you out to 380 Duluth Ave. The wife and four children of my batman

Alex Grant live there. He has looked after me like a mother for nearly two years. If I were writing the Pilgrim's Progress I'd call him Faithful.

Mrs Grant has been ailing for several months. I don't think it's serious and I don't think they're needy as he is a thrifty industrious Scot - a stone mason. He is very much devoted to them & I'm sure nothing but sheer patriotism brought him out here and I'm sure he'd appreciate your calling on them and I certainly owe him a great deal. John will remember how he improvised a bed for him one night.

Ever your affectionate son  
Stanley

France

26<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1917.

My dear Da,

This week's mail brought your two letters of Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and I was glad to hear such good news of Nellie also that Jim is getting fit. You'll be pleased to know that Edward Cuthbert, Millicent's horse, is going strong - weighed 9 lbs 9 oz at three weeks old, and his mother already shows signs of very exceptional intelligence.

I'm sorry to hear Mr Coombe is down with paralysis. I remember how you enjoyed your visits there. He will appreciate your coming to see him.



There's not much news. The weather this past fortnight has been ideal and we have made very fair progress with our training. On Sunday I'm handing over command here to Ray Pease and am returning to the 42nd. It has been a useful experience and pleasant break but six weeks is long enough to be away from your battalion as you soon lose touch.

I had a letter of congratulation from Sir Frederick Williams Taylor this week but it was on the D.S.O. He hadn't heard of E. C. V.'s advent.

Royal goes on a month's leave about Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and I shall probably apply for a month when he gets back. I'm fit enough but I will then have been 2 years on this job and

I want to give Georgie and the boys a  
holiday.

How do you like being a grand-  
father?

Your affectionate son,  
Stanley.

France

11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1917.

My dear dad

I returned to the  
battalion on 30<sup>th</sup> Sept and was  
in the line for the last five  
days of what will go on record  
as one of the most successful tours  
we've ever had. For eighteen  
days we were in front line or  
close support and until the  
last day without one casualty.  
A fairly heavy artillery shooch  
on the last night cost us four  
casualties.

During this tour one of our  
patrols rounded up two Hun  
battals captured six prisoners, killed

the others with no loss whatever  
to themselves.

We also had continuous fine  
weather during the tour. Since  
we moved out to rest billets  
it has been almost continuously  
wet.

Our Brigade was inspected today  
by the Army Commander who  
gave me a few kind words.

Right before us was the second  
anniversary of our landing in  
France. We had a small dinner  
at which nine officers <sup>who came to France with the Bde</sup> were  
present of whom three got their  
commissions out here.

Comparatively few of our original  
officers have been here <sup>the</sup> only <sup>one</sup> I  
think but a number have been  
wounded or dropped out for other

will be ample for all our  
present needs and as  
I am returning to Mac  
tomorrow we can then  
live without difficulty  
on my pay.

I don't believe I  
have acknowledged  
your cable of greeting  
in reply to mine. It  
was received just  
before we left for  
Bournemouth and  
was a ~~great~~ welcome

17  
118. FORDWYCH ROAD,

CRICKLEWOOD,

N.W.2.

Dec. 11. 17

My dear Father,

Referring to  
my letter the other day  
from Bourne mouth  
in which I advised  
having drawn on National  
Trust Coy for \$300. I have  
found it necessary today  
owing to a miscalculation  
to draw for a further two  
hundred dollars. This

in South Oaford. Nellie will have  
a vote. I am not sure about the  
waters - I did not think to ask.

I went out to see Kerr at his  
house in Harrow this morning.

He has had a bad attack of  
grippe & his digestion upset but  
is able to be up but not at work.

Then I went in to the West End and  
had lunch with Col Canthie, Benson  
Oliver and Mr MacTier of the  
C.P.R. - a very pleasant party.

George sends her love. Edward  
Cuthbert Villiers is in jail from since

Your affectionate son  
Stanley

remainder of no one.

Since returning from Bournemouth, I called on W Stavert and we had a most interesting chat of about an hour. In addition to his Red Cross work he is giving considerable time to Election propaganda among the Canadian forces in behalf of the Unionist Candidates. I find that Georgie will not have a vote owing to being resident in England: I will vote in France in favour of the Unionist Candidate



118 Fordwych Road  
Bricklewood NW2.  
11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1917.

My dear Dad,

Wish you were here  
to join our happy little family  
circle. I'm sure you would be  
attracted by Pete. I can't compare  
him with other babies as I never  
took a great interest in them but  
he is a strong healthy little  
chap with bright eyes. He gives  
funny little grunts and chuckles  
and seems to be trying so hard  
to talk.

II (We had a hand in the +  
Passchendaele show but were not  
in the main attack. We were for  
13 days in the battle area, furnish

-ing working parties most of the time. For three days just after one of the attacks we held the front line. Col. McFennan let me take the battalion in this time as he had it for the raid last June and I had Hugh Hoyle with me as Royal was on special leave. You will not be surprised to hear that Hugh is making an excellent officer. X

I have only a fortnight of leave. The Colonel was prepared to recommend me for 30 days but a new rule states that it can only be granted if absolutely necessary to prevent a breakdown which fortunately does not fit my case.

On Friday I am taking Georgie &

Pete and the nurse to Bournemouth for a week as I feel sure the sea air will do them good.

Georgie has given up the house on St Gabriel's road as the owner wants to live in it herself and has taken a small <sup>furnished</sup> flat for four months. It is less comfortable or attractive than the house but the problem of help is an acute one.

I have to acknowledge your letters of Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> and Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> which were not replied to sooner as they arrived when we were in the forward area and very busy. No opportunity presented itself for going over the St Julien battlefield and I did not in fact see C.K. after the move but Hugh Hoyles saw him one day for a couple of minutes. I received the photo of the tablet which I think is a very handsome and fitting one. So

all you can to prevent any  
further write ups in the newspapers. I  
would like to imitate as far as  
possible Col. M'Ferson and Royal  
Living, who "delivers the goods" in France  
and keeps out of the papers.

I am pleased that you had so  
pleasant a meeting with Sir Vincent  
Meredith and Sir Frederick at  
the Bank. I look forward to the time  
when I can go back and take up  
my work there, strengthened by a  
wife who I know will be a real help  
to me.

I am pleased that you have  
been appointed to the Exemption  
Board although it will be no  
sinecure. It is however most  
important to the country to have  
these boards conducted without  
fear or favour which I know you  
will do.

I am delighted that you continue  
to get good news from Mrs Biggs  
& that John likes his new post.

The weather has been only fairly good but I've been spending a very delightful leave and besides meeting my son I've been able to see something of my Bank friends including Mr MacNider and also Herbert Molson and a few other officers at Canadian Headquarters whom I know. I've not seen Mr Peacock or Mr Stavert this leave or had time to visit Col. Cautlie at the Reserve Battalion.

I'm a little worried about Victor Gordon who is back in hospital again at Liverpool, having developed a running sore at his old wound. Did I tell you that Hugh Hoyles and Victor are Pete's godfathers.

I note what you say regarding Donald Sutherland and will arrange to get registered accordingly.  
yours affectionately  
Stavley.

Edward Cutthbert

Killiers entails quite a retinue, a nurse, a perambulator, and a cot added to two steamer trunks and a suitcase may have started a report that the circus had come to town but it was only us arriving <sup>today</sup> for a week.

E.C.V. caused great consternation by waking up an hour before the train was

TEL NO. 17321 BOURNEMOUTH.  
117331 STATION  
BOURNEMOUTH CENTRAL.

THE CHINE HOTEL,  
BOSCOMBE,  
BOURNEMOUTH.

16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1917.

Cheer Ho. Here we are  
again at Bournemouth.  
Not at the same hotel.  
The Royal Bath objected  
to Edward Cuthbert  
Villiers and thereby  
missed a chance to  
become famous. We  
think we are going to  
like the Chine equally  
as well.

due here and we all "stood to" waiting for him to time up but he rose to the occasion, preserved a very fine dignity and watched the landscape flitting by with an interest that his mother regards as evidence of the most precocious cleverness.

He was again in great form after Nurse had wheeled him along the beach for an hour. In fact we think he quite approves of Bourne mouth, as soon as I finish this letter I am going round to tell the Mayor and Aldermen as they must be under a strain of anxiety.

Since writing you the other day from Grantham I have received your letter of Oct 9<sup>th</sup>. I am pleased



duties of General Staff  
Officers 2nd grade (G.S.O. 2)  
at Canadian Headquarters  
in London. He and I  
were convalescent  
at the same time  
last year and Georgie  
and Mrs McDonald  
met and became  
close friends and  
still correspond now.  
Mrs McDonald has  
returned to Canada.

I got up to London  
next Wednesday to  
get my medals pinned.

TELEPHONE (1738) BOURNEMOUTH.  
(1739) STATION;  
BOURNEMOUTH CENTRAL.

THE CHINE HOTEL,  
BOSCOMBE,  
BOURNEMOUTH.

to hear of John  
McDonald's promotion.  
I am a great admirer  
of his brother Capt.  
Geo. McDonald M.C.  
formerly Staff Capt.  
of our Brigade. He  
was badly wounded  
at the Somme &  
although still  
undergoing treatment  
is carrying on the

on. Meanwhile we shall loaf,  
about here. It is a pretty spot and  
the change from London weather  
will do Georgie & Pete good.

It was from no lack of  
appreciation of Fred's useful  
life and manly and attractive  
character that his nephew was  
not named after him but too  
many names would be an  
absurdity and I feel it will  
be better to let it stand as  
Edward Cuthbert Villiers.

Georgie's request to have "Villiers  
included somewhere" in his  
name was a modest one  
and should certainly be granted.

Yes Royal Ewing was  
greatly benefitted by his 30  
days leave. He returned to  
the battalion a few days before I  
left <sup>with</sup> <sup>my</sup> <sup>most</sup> <sup>affectionate</sup> <sup>son</sup>  
Stanley.

TELEPHONE 1738.  
739.

STATIONS:  
BOURNEMOUTH CENTRAL  
AND BOSCOMBE.

THE CHINE HOTEL,  
BOSCOMBE,  
BOURNEMOUTH.

22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 1917.

My dear Father,

I am sending you  
a copy to today's Times from which  
you will see I was among those  
present at Buckingham Palace  
yesterday to get my medals.

We are returning to London to-  
morrow and I return to France  
on Sunday. Hugh Hoyle has  
been wounded slightly in the face  
above one eye, <sup>a shell splinter.</sup> it is doubtful  
if he will be sent to England  
but I hope so as the rest and  
seeing his family would do him  
good.

TELEPHONE 1736.  
1739.

STATIONS:  
BOURNEMOUTH CENTRAL  
AND BOSCOMBE.

THE CHINE HOTEL,  
BOSCOMBE,  
BOURNEMOUTH.

after the investiture I went to the Prince of Wales Hospital in London and saw three 4<sup>th</sup> officers. They are none of them very bad fortunately. Then I went in to the City and had lunch with Mr Peacock. He is very optimistic regarding the ultimate value of the Barcelona Traction securities. He is President of the Coy. Says they now have 1700 men at work on a new hydraulic installation which will increase their production from 100,000 hp to 160,000 hp. and that they have a ready market for all of it. The enhanced value of coal helps them greatly.

TELEPHONE 1738.  
1739.

THE CHINE HOTEL,  
BOSCOMBE,

STATIONS:  
BOURNEMOUTH CENTRAL  
AND BOSCOMBE.

BOURNEMOUTH.

I meant to ask him about  
Brazilian Praction of which he is  
a director but two friends joined  
the party and there was no  
opportunity.

x then went on to the Bank where I  
found Kerr had been at home  
for some days with a cold. As  
Harrow is only 10 minutes by  
the metropolitan from Cricklewood  
we will try to see him on our  
return. I also spoke to Col. Cuttle  
by phone at Bramshott and he  
will try to get up to London on  
Friday for the week end.

Pete's doctor's bill & nurse's wages  
and some money I spent privately  
for betterments to the accommodation

TELEPHONE 1738.  
• 1739.

STATIONS:  
BOURNEMOUTH CENTRAL  
AND BOSCOMBE.

THE CHINE HOTEL,  
BOSCOMBE,  
BOURNEMOUTH.

of the training battalion have  
run me a little short of money,  
and I drew yesterday for three  
hundred dollars on the National  
Trust Coy under credit which you  
were good enough to establish. I  
do not think I shall require to  
draw anything further.

I asked Grace Brown to apply to  
you for a cheque on our Toronto  
account for about \$6.- in payment  
for two Xmas presents which we asked  
her to send to ~~be~~ a young niece  
and nephew in Winnipeg.

Georgie sends you her love  
and says she wishes you could  
see Peter. So do I. He is very  
healthy, bright, chirpy and fast.

Your affectionate son  
Stanley

France,  
8. 1. 18'

My dear Father

I wrote you a few days ago acknowledging your cable of New Years greetings and telling you that I had become attached to the Hqs Staff of the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade. I have had about ten days on the new work and like it very well. When I get a definite appointment I think I shall like it even more.

For some weeks now we have had snow on the ground and occasionally a considerable amount of frost. We are however in better shape to stand it than at this time last year.



Brigade Hqrs. itself, is in some large substantial dugouts that were built by the Germans.

The last few days have brought us heavy Canadian mails, including your letters of Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. I am not surprised that your work on the Exemptions board proved arduous and unpleasant but it is a duty well done and will have played its part in building up necessary reserve of men for the Corps.

In your letter of 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. you speak of having caught a nasty cold and as you are subject to them why do you not consider going south for the balance of

the winter, now the work of the Board is over and Nellie in happy surroundings I read Josie's letters. It breathes a very kindly, interested, feeling for Nellie and I'm sure you couldn't have found a better home for her.

Mrs Chace who wrote me regarding the memorial service, has evidently come on to England. She sent me a New Year's card from Derbyshire.

The £5000 Victory War Bond will certainly make a handsome present for even so exceptional a young man as Edward Cuthbert Villiers. I hear nothing but good news of him from Geozie.

Thank you very much for taking care of the drafts for £300 and £200 - which I drew when on leave also for

paying Grace's account for Xmas presents  
to the young Corbets.

The Benedicts seem very happy  
now they are back in Montreal  
again.

You will be interested to hear  
that C.K. who was to have come to  
our Divisional Hqrs Staff, has  
accepted instead the Command  
of the 24th Canadian Battalion.

This will carry with it his  
promotion to <sup>senior</sup> Colonel.

We 4 <sup>and</sup> held the Xmas dinner  
last night and the general  
allowed me to go down to it, and  
I enjoyed it thoroughly. I don't  
ever expect to meet a finer lot  
of fellows. The Colonel, Royal, and  
Hugh Hoyle & were all there and in  
their usual good form.

Yours affectionately

Stanley

I am keeping very fit.

Hugh Hoyle is spending today at Clifton (near Bristol) with his family. He leaves for here on the 27th. They invited Georgie to be with them but she decided, wisely I think, to stay on in London as the railway journey might be upsetting for her and reach on E.C.V. She says he has been splendid lately.

We were all delighted at the result of the Canadian elections and I know you will be. Col. McEwen is back from his five days course at the Flying Corps. They were up twice a day for flights of about an hour each. He says he never enjoyed anything more. He was quite surprised at the distinctness with which troops & transport could be seen by low flying planes.

Your affectionate son Stanley.

Sunday  
10 Feb 1918

My dear Father,

Your  
very welcome letter  
written on New Year's  
Eve arrived a few  
days ago. I share  
your hope that this  
year will see the  
end of the war although  
it will doubtless take

some time before  
tonnage can be found  
to take us all back  
to Canada.

I'm glad to hear  
you had John and  
George & Gerald with  
you for Xmas and  
that John is looking  
so well and liking  
his work & associates.

I am finding  
my present work  
extremely interesting  
but of course as  
regards associations  
the 42<sup>nd</sup> was quite  
exceptional. However  
I do not regret the  
change, and our  
staffs are a good lot.  
I had a letter

Yesterday from Hugh  
Hoyle's saying he  
was leaving today  
for a month's course  
at the Army School,  
so I rode over last  
night and had  
dinner with them.  
Found everyone in  
good shape. Royal is  
just back from leave.

10/2/18  
Walter Wolson a  
younger brother of  
Herbert and Percy had  
just arrived and  
joined the battalion.

× He was a major but  
reverted to lieutenant  
in order to get to France.

I expect to get over  
for two weeks leave  
about 15<sup>th</sup> ~~Feb~~ <sup>March</sup>. Georgie  
is well and fine

latest reports regard-  
-ing Edward Cuthbert  
Villiers is that he  
weighs 16 pounds and  
is as healthy as can  
be and that "his tooth  
is nearly through".

As regards the gift  
of Nonleigh for a  
Convalescent Home  
you ask my candid

opinion. It would  
be against doing  
so; or if you and  
John strongly wish  
it, then for a term of  
years only. It will  
only be for a term of  
years that the country  
will have Convalescent  
soldiers to care for. They  
will gradually recover

and return to their  
own homes or those  
of relatives. I  
quite appreciate that  
with help of any  
sort or difficulty, it <sup>(possibly)</sup>  
may be rather a  
burden especially  
in winter. Why not  
put in a caretaker  
and go south to a



comfortable hotel. You  
then have either Noleigh  
or the Montreal house  
to come back to when  
you want to.

I was interested to  
hear you had  
exchanged Christmas  
greetings with Alfred  
Jacobsen. He is the  
young Dane who

worked with me on  
the U.S. Banking Coy  
liquidation in Mexico.

He is a very fine  
fellow indeed and  
exceptionally able.

He is now Assistant  
General Manager of  
the Mexican Eagle  
oil Coy at Tampico  
and I understand

his salary is \$10,000 -  
U.S. Cij per annum, or  
four times what the  
Bank was paying him three  
years ago.

Ever your affectionate son  
Stanley

France,  
16th Feby '18.

My dear father, I was  
glad to get your  
letter of 10th January  
this evening, but  
sorry to hear Nellie  
had had a bad turn  
and that your cold  
hangs on. I hope it  
is gone before this.  
I feel sure Nellie  
is getting the best  
of care from Josie  
and will improve  
and that this is  
merely a bad turn.

Do you not think  
now your work on the  
Inscriptions Board is  
over, that you could

get away to the South  
for the balance of  
the winter.

I'm glad you wrote  
Royal on his DSO. He  
deserved it if ever  
anyone did. The  
address would find  
him all right.

Herbert Nelson is  
coming out to France  
in a very few days  
now to take a  
position on the  
Canadian Corps  
Hqrs. Staff.

I was at the  
Divisional school  
today watching  
some inter-Brigade  
Competitions and  
met Col. Weffman  
and several 42nd

officers. He may go  
to England on 30 days  
leave shortly.

I haven't seen Royal  
for a while, nor C.K.  
for a long time. As  
you know C.K. gave  
up staff work to  
take command of  
the 24th Canadian  
Battalion.

A letter from Kerr  
the other day says  
Bournemouth did him  
a lot of good and  
he is now quite himself  
again. Victor Gordon  
is in a convalescent  
home in England. His  
recovery seems very  
slow. Hope to go out  
leave in two or three

weeks and shall  
try to see him.  
The weather at the  
beginning of this month  
was wonderfully  
fine and warm for  
about a week, then  
dull with drizzle and  
now fine with hard  
frost. Altogether  
the weather so far  
has been better than  
last winter and the  
living accommodation  
in the line is very  
much improved.

Georgie and Edward  
Cuthbert Villiers are  
both flourishing. He  
seems to be a very  
healthy little boy and  
and he has a very

capable mothers from  
whom he gets the best  
of care.

I'm afraid it is  
now quite definite that  
he looks like me but  
that can't be helped.

Ever your affectionate son,  
Stanley.

19. 2. 18.

My dear Father,

that C.K.'s <sup>leaving</sup> battalion were only three miles distant, I walked over there last evening and spent an interesting half hour with him.

He apparently does not expect to remain in command of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Col. Ritchie his predecessor is away on four months sick leave. The rules are that for an absence of three months or more you are struck off the strength

and a definite promotion is made in your place, so that C.K. would be entitled to stay on in command but he is so chivalrous, he will no doubt want to make way for Ritchie if the latter gets well enough to take over from him.

C.K. gave me particulars of the crosses which were erected to Ed. and Guy Drummond, as nearly as could be determined, on the spots where they fell. This ground as you know was recovered in the offensive last fall. C.K. I have no doubt

2<sup>nd</sup> April 1918.

My dear Father, since writing  
you we have had quite a  
bit of excitement and move-  
ment but not much fighting.  
At present things are  
very quiet after the big  
Hun drive. We must  
concede it a measure  
of success but it is  
also true that the Hun's  
casualties were heavy  
as he attacked in close  
formation.

I've not much personal news except that my appointment as Brigade Major is confirmed: I would rather it had been with my old Brigade but I am not unhappy here and there is at present no vacancy in the 7<sup>th</sup>.

I expected to have been in England today but of course there was a general cancellation of leave when active

operations began. I'm glad to say George and Edward are both well and I am in the pink myself.

I haven't seen any of the Battalion for some time except Herbert Molson who has come to France again and is attached to Hqrs staff of our Division. I believe however the Battalion are in good shape & have been.



singularly free from  
casualties this last  
few months. Col. Myer  
is back from his leave.

Ever your affectionate son  
Stanley

had few casualties,  
made substantial  
progress in improving  
our defences and  
carried out one very  
successful raid.

Everyone worked  
very hard and will  
be glad of a little  
rest.

With reference to

21<sup>st</sup> March '18.

My dear Father

Since I  
wrote you we have  
moved into Divisional  
Reserve and are  
billeted in very  
comfortable huts.  
Taken altogether our  
tour was a very  
successful one. We

above will serve as  
a reference.

Yours affectionately  
Stanley

John would understand  
this map reference.

the cross erected to  
Ed's memory at the  
spot where he fell  
& have just learned  
that the map location  
is

Belgium & France  
Series of Army maps  
Sheet 28 C 6 c. 6. 1

I am not permitted  
to send you ~~a~~ <sup>one of</sup>  
these maps but the

28. 5. 18

~~Mr. [unclear]~~

I am sending

you a sketch made by one  
of the ward officers of Tido's  
grave. I haven't been  
able to get round to see  
it lately but the flowers  
which my father-in-law  
planted last year ought  
to be coming out.

Well General has  
now gone to England  
owing to poor health and

our new Brigadier X  
is Col. D. C. Trafer who  
was a battalion  
Commander in the  
Brigade. I am delighted  
at the appointment as  
I don't know anyone except  
perhaps Col. Thompson  
whom I admire more.

He was a farmer in civil  
life, in the Eastern townships  
fairly well to do, I  
should judge. He is  
intensely practical and  
very broadminded and  
a fighter from the deep of

the bat. As a battalion  
Commander he was very  
aggressive & successful.  
"The only thing to do with the  
old boche" he once remarked  
to me "is to hit him all the  
time". and I found that  
he lived up to his motto.

On the other hand I have  
never known a raid  
<sup>carried out</sup>  
more thoroughly prepared  
<sup>in every detail</sup>  
than one which his  
battalion carried out  
last February.

His leave is to be

reopened on a limited  
scale. but as it's more  
than six months since  
I had my last leave  
I expect to get none,  
unless we get into a  
scrap within the next  
48 hours. I am very  
much cheered up at  
the prospect of seeing  
Georgie again and having  
a play with Edward

Ever your affectionate son

Stanley

4<sup>th</sup> May 1918

I note what you say regarding Nellie. I wrote you a few days ago suggesting that you give a trial to an attendant whom Georgie's friend Miss Henderson would choose and who would have some little medical knowledge. You will be the best judge as to this but I think

My dear Father,  
Your letter of April 3<sup>rd</sup> arrived today and it was a great pleasure to see your familiar handwriting again and to know you are once more feeling something of your old self.



it is worth thinking over.  
If it is at all possible, I am  
looking forward to bringing  
Georgie and Edward out to Canada  
this fall.

We are not in the least degree  
downhearted at the advances  
made by the Hun, undoubtedly  
very heavy casualties have  
been inflicted on him which  
fully offset the ground gained.

Herbert Molson is now on  
our Divisional Hqs staff  
and I see him frequently. I  
haven't seen any of the others  
for a couple of months but I  
know they are all OK. The  
battalion has come through  
the winter with surprisingly  
few casualties.

1915 5 18

My dear Father,

I received  
your letter of 12<sup>th</sup> April  
with John's enclosed and  
had to laugh at his  
description of himself  
becoming quite a hot air  
artist & with all his  
speech making.

I hope you felt better  
for the doctor.

We are in reverse at  
present and I think

Everyone is feeling better  
for the rest, fresh air and  
training. Personally I  
am very fit although I  
could stand two weeks  
leave. Wilfred Bovey had  
dinner with us a few  
nights ago but gave us a  
report that leave was not  
shortly reopened but in  
limited amount. I don't  
know. He is still D.A.G.  
at Camp Hope. Herbert  
Nelson had recently gone  
there temporarily to assist him.

I have been able to  
visit the 42nd a couple  
of times lately. I don't  
think the battalion was  
ever in better shape.

I had some hopes of  
getting back to the old  
brigade a short while ago  
but it didn't materialize.  
However I am not at  
all unhappy where  
I am.

George writes that  
he and Howard are  
both feeling much better

for the sea air and  
sunshine of Beahill.  
Fortunately one of George's  
old Anishnaabe friends  
Mr. Fox, a Christian bandit  
over here, in the Pioneers, is  
living in Beahill. They are  
great company for each  
other.

I've told mother I  
received the cake cookies  
and both were fine - just  
as fresh as if just out  
of the oven.  
Love you & affectionate son  
Stanley

Trappee  
17<sup>th</sup> July 1918

My dear father, we are  
out for a rest after  
a very quiet run of  
about a fortnight in  
the line. During that  
time a good deal  
was accomplished  
in the way of improve-  
-ments to defences,  
notwithstanding the  
oppressive weather.

Col Drape's promotion  
to be Brig Genl and to

Command the Brigade  
had come through. I  
think we are very  
lucky to have got so  
sound a man.

Yesterday we were  
visited by General  
Newburn, Canadian  
Minister of Militia,  
Colonel Ballantyne  
Minister of Marine  
and General Wilson  
who commands the  
Montreal Military  
District. On my

being introduced  
they each mentioned  
having known Ed.

I have told General  
Draper that I want  
later to apply for  
three months leave  
beginning 1<sup>st</sup> November.  
He was very nice and  
said he would recommend  
it.

I am glad to say  
Biddy Sankey is  
now considered  
out of danger and

Georgie has returned  
to Beahill. She reports  
master Edward is in  
fine form and  
splashes lustily in  
his bath in which  
he has now learnt  
to sit up alone. He  
is also making  
determined efforts  
to creep.

I was very glad  
to receive your  
letter of June 15<sup>th</sup> and

note the progress & pleasure  
in making an  
orator. After the  
war we will have  
him going into  
public life.

with much love.

Ever your affectionate  
son

Stanley.

France,  
1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1917.

My dear father  
"Will you please send on the enclosed letter to Bank of Montreal Toronto after perusal.

Tell John I have just had a call from Lieut John Mackenzie formerly of the 73<sup>rd</sup>. He has just arrived in France and is temporarily with an Entrenching Battalion but will come on to us later.

As cabled you through Kerr the other day, we are out resting and are comfortably billeted

12. 8. 18.

My dear Father, the Corp's  
turn to take a hand in  
this year's decisive  
fighting has come at  
last and I'm glad to  
say has resulted in a  
success greater even  
than Vimy. On August  
we attacked in conjunction  
with French Australian  
British troops assisted  
by British tanks. It was  
a surprise attack without



any preliminary bombard-  
-ments. Within 52 hours  
we had advanced on  
line 16 kilometres (10 English  
miles) captured numerous  
machine guns & artillery  
pieces and in the case  
of our own division the  
number of prisoners  
taken exceeded our  
total casualties by 2 to 1.  
I think perhaps our showing  
was exceptional but  
the whole operation was  
an outstanding success.

You will have learned  
with great regret I know  
of the death of Col. McFannan.  
It was the first day we  
learned of the attack  
scheme which was  
kept secret up to the  
last. He had gone forward  
to look over the ground  
to be attacked. a  
splinter from a shell  
penetrated his hip  
passing on up into  
his body. only a trifling  
wound in appearance

but he died within a few minutes. He was a man it was a privilege to have known and be associated with. Clean cut and broad minded, clever, thoughtful and unselfish. The battalion one of the most efficient in France is a monument to his personality.

News from Georgie is good. Little Edwards she are both first rate and he now weigh 220 lbs & has four teeth, surely a "big advance".  
Ever your affectionate son Stanley

L. 1 / 17<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1918.

The Corps' turn for active fighting came on August 5<sup>th</sup> and I had not long been reunited in our own tent with nearly 10,000 prisoners and 152 guns and casualties moderate in comparison to the results. But I am sorry to say they include two of the finest men Canada or any country

has ever produced - Col. McFannin and Hugh Hoyle, both killed as no doubt you have already learned from the papers.

Miss Hoyle is at Deal Hill at present with 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. 1<sup>st</sup> Div. She has come near Georgia. I do not know whether she will be returning to Canada immediately but I would rather expect so.

Everett's boys did its  
part in the attack very  
creditably, and the boys  
staff tried to make up  
for our comparative  
safety by working hard  
to help things along. I  
think the general was  
much pleased.

We are now back  
resting and I wish  
to write cable you to  
that effect. I am feeling  
quite better and  
very fit

John will be coming to  
see you at the two  
who was with the 13th  
was killed in the recent  
fighting and Jeff Marani  
of the 13th wounded but  
I believe not badly. I  
think you went to  
school with them both.

Georgie is well &  
little Edward flourishes  
Ever your affectionate  
Stanley

France,

4th Sept., 1918

My dear Father:

I handed my application for 3 months' leave to date from 1st November to the Brigadier last night. He stated that he would take the matter up with Corps or, if necessary, with the Minister when next he goes on leave and would see that I got it.

Well the course of the War has taken on an entirely new aspect lately. The old Hun is now entirely on the defensive and we are making substantial headway both in recovery of ground and in the capture of prisoners, guns and material.

The Canadian Corps has carried out two most successful attacks one S.E. of Amiens on Aug. 8th and one N. of Arras on 26th Aug. In both, our Brigade played a creditable part, our most notable achievement being the capture of Monchy le Fraux on 26th Aug. On all sides one hears the comment "This is a different Hun to the one we fought on the Somme." There is no doubt they are now surrendering in the face of our attacks much more readily than they did formerly. Unless we do something frightfully stupid I think the War is now won but it will probably take another summer to finish it.

There is another side to the picture. It is the loss of two fine gentlemen and gallant soldiers, Bartlett McLennan and Hugh Hoyles. They were both everything that men should be. Elsie will wait in England and come out with us in November. I rather fancy she will settle in Toronto in order to be near Dr. and Mrs. Hoyles. I don't think Hugh left much except his life insurance. Elsie's pension from the Government will be that of a Lieutenant but I am hopeful the Bell Telephone Company will grant her a pension as well. I understand they were allowing Hugh half pay.

X General Dyer paid me the compliment of asking me to go back to command the 42nd but I turned it down. Royal is in every way qualified to do so and there are other good officers coming along to whom it would be a pity to deny promotion. Please regard this as confidential.

I have to thank you for your two letters July 31st and August 4th. I am glad to know Uncle George is better after his serious illness and I hope he will be able to take the trip north that you have suggested. I note what you say about Nellie. Josie seems to take a genuine sympathetic interest in her. We are lucky that Nellie should have her for a friend. I will be interested to hear whether anything comes of my letter to Harland Macdougall re finding a place for John in the British Mission Washington.

Letters from Georgie all speak of our little sonny as going on well. He now weight 21 pounds, is creeping all over the place and even manages to stand up with the aid of the sofa.

Mrs. Sankey, Biddy Sankey and Elsie Hoyles and her two chicks are all in Penhill now and Bob and Dick Sankey and Newman Hoyles and his wife have been down to visit them, so Georgie has had a busy summer.

over

I haven't seen C. K. lately but I know he is all right or I should have heard of it. So are Wilfrid Coveyard, Herbert Nelson. Herbert is now in the Canadian Section at General Headquarters, and I hear he is to get his promotion to Lieut.-Colonel. I hope so.

I am as fit as can be and still a very great admirer of my new chiefs.

Your affectionate son,

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I am as fit as can be, and still a very great admirer of my new Chief.

Your affectionate son  
Stanley.

131  
The staffs are  
very congenial.

From all accounts  
Edward Lambert Wilton  
is continuing to  
develop and become  
an increasing  
source of interest  
and comfort to his  
mother. He says  
he is very active  
and observant and  
he looks wide awake  
and ~~so~~ <sup>intelligent</sup>  
in his photo. I am  
very keen to see  
the little beggar again.

I am in good shape  
although I could  
stand a fortnight's  
rest if I have no penicillin.  
Since coming on  
the staffs I have  
longer hours and  
less exercise than  
formerly. But the  
work is more  
interesting and the  
living conditions  
are better when  
in the line. My  
associates on the

"Da Ba" I'm told is his best efforts at  
Daddy so far, and probably that  
required quite a stretch of the  
imagination to detect.

Well Dad, we are moving  
early in the morning so I must  
get to bed. Don't worry about  
me nor about our beating the  
Huns. The British are a complacent  
people - but those two thrusts of  
the Huns have resulted in quite  
a lot of dead wood being weeded  
out in high places.

Ever yours affectionate son  
Stanley.

was the prime mover  
in getting this done,  
although he gives  
great credit to Wilfrid  
Bovey; and as Wilfrid  
is at Corps HQs, and  
Burials and Graves  
Registration etc. is one  
of the items falling  
in his particular  
department, he could  
and would of course  
gladly render  
every assistance.

I had no hand  
in it myself. The  
fortnight we were  
in front of Passchendaele  
was the most strenuous  
I have put in, since  
coming to France. I  
did not even get to see

the ground which was  
some miles on our  
left.

There is no other news.  
The weather lately has  
been better, frosty  
but fine.

Your affectionate son,  
Stanley.

P.S. Whether he stays on  
in command of the  
battalion or not, I  
think C.K.'s promotion  
to Lt. Colonel is permanent.

France,  
Xmas Day.

My dear Father,

We are in Brigade support and very comfortably housed in cellars. They are very warm and roomy with good head cover from shelling and a great improvement over the corresponding position we occupied about this time last year.

While we may not have recovered a great extent of country on the western front, our position at almost all points has been greatly improved during the year.

There is no special news. We are all feeling fine after our month's rest and the battalion is in good shape

well and not much rain.

George and the baby were  
much kept to bed by our week in  
the summer though so we did  
see a lot of good.

Hugh though wounded I am glad to  
say he is very bright - very near his  
old self. He did not go into a  
hospital but only to a Casualty  
Clearing Station where they took  
him & he returned to  
the 1st Coy.

Hugh is now 2nd in command  
of C Company and as his company  
is awarded a bar he is being  
Hugh is carrying on.

Royal is in good shape. He is  
away at a machine gun demonstration

at the moment & probably has  
just returned.



The page is full of  
mistakenly written  
but the bulk of the

now have already

with payment of  
others which are  
to be to be covered

with out at  
the work done.

It will be  
to all the

to all the  
to all the

to all the

reasons.

Barber's death was hard luck especially coming so soon after his revival. He was a good fellow and had a great future in the Bank.

Royal is on 30 days leave in England. Except for four ten day leaves he had not had a break in two years and was a little run down.

I am much pleased that there seems a better prospect of a Coalition Government in Canada and the Gov. of Ontario. We were all surprised to hear of Brown's going to Queen's University and personally I looked forward to meeting him again on my return to Montreal very much indeed.

Thanks very much for your  
letter of the 24th and for having  
deposited £100- to cover my 100-  
amount.

I'm sorry the news of Nellie is not  
better.

All my news of Georgie and Edward  
and Albert Villiers is first class and  
I hope to get over to see them next  
month.

Ever your affectionate son  
Stanley.

Col Melfman & Hugh are  
both very well & I never felt better  
myself.