

Nov 10.

Hd Qrs I Cav Div . 10F7
PG/1209 (19)
On Service.

My dear Mrs. Mrs.

I've just got - & got your letter of the 5th. I'm glad you've got my letters how funny the posts are.

I set you off a letter this morning with on the 8th. I couldn't get it off before. It didn't matter a bit really about that typed letter.

The situation is still unchanged, we're just hanging on all along the line. The Germans are still pushing hard to get Ypres. They took Messines from us last week, but too give them a strong artillery position. We've had a dull day to day sitting about in the town we were living in last week & doing nothing. I rode out there this morning & rode back again this evening. The General had a

narrow escape this morning. He was driving through a village with the President & his address & a shell burst over them one bullet went through the radiator, & another broke the windshield, & a Frenchman was killed beside them. Luckily they all escaped unhurt. The President had to go off this morning to get his car mended. The poor old car has had a lot of knocks. It got hit the day the inn was blown down & again last night & now to day.

The General is always going running round among the bullets & shells just to see how things are going. It's silly as he does no good. But you can't stop him as he thinks he does good.

He was finally quiet all to day after that, which was a relief. I like messing about with him in shells & swift flares when there is no absolute necessity for it. & I was

² Sent them with a message it would be quite another affair. They put a few shells into the town we were in today but none of them close to us.

I'm getting awfully fat leading this sort of life. One week the best I get's very little exercise. Today I'm only ridden to one head quarters a boat a matter of about 14 miles & sat about the rest of the day. However I'm quite hungry & ready for dinner now. I will find this & then change for dinner. I don't think that there is much wrong with Barnes. He had his coat out & his ribs a bit bruised but its nothing. He never was hurt with it. I saw Peter Coombe the night he was wounded. He was able to walk alright & seemed quite happy. I look on the average person who gets a nice cushy wound like a broken arm or something of the sort, that

will make them go home & keep them
there for a couple of months, as being
d--d lucky. This is a rather slow
& has absolutely no good points. There
is absolutely no excitement in it
whatsoever. Of course I have quite
a good time but I'm talking about
the troop leader who has to sit in
the trenches. Poor old Brock is

awfully fed up with the whole
proceeding. He wants to get back
to the Regt. He ought to be very
glad to have a good job with J. ✓

But I quite know what he feels that
he isn't getting his weight. I often
feel the same myself.

What a funny story that is about
the Belgians arriving in their
clothes. Quite a probable story I
should think. You see if they were
in Holland in uniform they'd have
to lay down their arms. So they

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to escape from the Germans in Holland
& then we quite willing to go back again
a /yft. I haven't heard any of those
stories about the French generals.

The story about Mannering & Eltington
is a little evolved but what I can
gather of it is as follows:

Our Bde was doing rear guard so to
be retiring Infantry outside St Quentin
in the retreat. Geoff & I always call
it the "Cal & Custard Pot day" Because
we were ordered to hang on till dark
still at all costs & then get away &
when we were given the order it looked
as if there was very little chance of
getting away as the Germans were
burning villages about 5 miles away.
I remember we all laughed & cut sticks
so as to ride a /pink in the darkness
of the night. We took compass
bearings when to go to a set light.
However we weren't worried & went

back that evening - got a very excellent
letter in a village called Sooy.
Well I'm rather displeas'd from my
sight. But the point is that the
Gen sent Tom Bridges into St Quentin
to clear out all our infantry & put
them on the right road. I haven't told
you before but it was a most
pathetic sight. The whole of that
day we'd had infantry passing through
us in ones & twos absolutely beat
to the wide. The unknown and
looking individuals come creeping along
the road not caring a damn what
happened to them. All they wanted
was food & rest. It was really
dreadful. Well Manning &
Atkinson had got their battalions
into St Quentin in the sort of state
an absolute disorganised mob.
When Bridges got in there he found that
they had surrounded the battalions

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to the Mayor of the town. They had
all layed down their arms & said
they wouldn't fight. Then if the Germans
had come along the Mayor would
just have backed them all over & so
avoided having the town shelled.

There was a lot of men belonging to
the line Regia in the town hall who
absolutely refused to come out. Said
they didn't mind what happened so
long as they weren't made to march.

Both the Colonels were practically
off their heads with worry & fatigue.
You can't imagine what it was
without having seen it what a
awful strain it was. Both Colonels
had the best control over their men.
Hannering was put under arrest then
& then but Elkington went off &
was found a couple of days afterwards
wandering about without a belt
or any equipment & without any

guitar or fiddle on. This is the
story I was told & to the best of
my knowledge it is true.

What I am quite certain about is that
both Pyle laid down their arms &
refused to fight. Dreadful word
it. One could never believe that

men could get into such a state
unless you had seen them.

Tom Bridges was offended that
night. There was a lot of other
men in the town as well as the
two Pyles. One lot had to go down
one road to join the Division &
another lot had to go down another.

At the cross roads the men across
put up stumps - which road each
Division was to take. Well when
Tom arrived in the town all the
men were just hanging about too
and to move on. So he bought
a toy drum & a penny whistle

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a noble a couple of men very then
the noble then all fell in a march
then all down the road after him.
They said they wouldn't go unless he
led them. So he walked off at their
head & after going about a mile led
them in quite good formation & quite
cheerful & then got them to march on
by themselves. A good show
won't it. He's a wonderful
man with extraordinary personality.
He has since been recommended for a
V.C. & given command of the III
Bussars. He won't lift them
long & has been with the King of
the Belgians. I believe he
arranged the evacuation of
Antwerp.
No good about the Russians
won't it. But I'm afraid they
will get held up soon when they
come up against the German tanks

on that side. However their rooms
must till. We'll have to give
them a good bump on this side before
there is any hope of peace. Jerry
will run across our lines till
we have her absolutely beaten and
at present moment she is far from
that. She is getting up a good
kick and has gained a bit of
ground. The idea of her retiring
at present is all rot. I'm quite
sure of that. If we hang a her
about she'll have to go back
some day but this by no means
beat yet. It makes me awfully
angry to see the rot that is
written in the papers about her.
Everybody who has been up in the
Caucasus acknowledges that the
Russians are as brave as lions
& that their men are well handled.
They are awfully good with their

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nothing yours, & of course their yours
 are wonderful. The French yours are
 awfully good at short ranges 3,500
 to 4,000 but beyond that I don't
 think they are much good. However they
 have done a good deal of damage to
 the German infantry but they can't
 compete with the German big guns.
 I set you a "comic cut" in my
 letter this morning which was not
 read to us. It may amuse you
 to read but it's the sort of stuff
 a child would write. Why can't
 they say that the German light infantry
 made a big counter attack instead
 of seizing a battalion. It does no
 good sending rubbish like that round
 to troops they only laugh at it. Still
 there is a certain amount of facts in
 it that may interest you. But they
 really ought to be allowed to write
 in that sort of tone.

I'm sending you Blanch's letters. Be
sure to send the book. You said
something about a photo in your letter.
Did she ask you for one? If she wants
one will you send her one, but she
won't send anything to me about it.
Send her the one in uniform if she wants
it. No I'm afraid she wouldn't be
able to go & stay with you. But I'd
like you to get to know her better. You
do what you can. I'll leave it to you.
I haven't heard from her for about a week
now. I'm expecting another letter from
her any day now. You can't think
how nice it is coming home in the
evening & finding letters. I didn't expect
to get one to-night & come back to find
a lovely long one from you. Stewart has
set me out of batteries. More than I
want at present. They ought to bid
me for about 6 months. I'll have to
write a little him not to send me any

2 now just yet. I took a few photos
 to-day but it has been a bad dull
 dusky sort of day so I don't suppose
 they will be much good. If to-morrow
 is a good day I'll find the roll & send
 it to you. We were in a bad place to
 to-day for photos in the middle of a
 town. Nothing much to like.

No annoying Turkey clipping in so
 I'm afraid it may prolong the war.
 There is a rumour going about that the
 Dow may be sent to Egypt but I'm
 afraid that is too good to be true.
 That would be a jolly good show.
 Mine a woman a no black marks.
 Well I must go off & leave some dinner
 now.

Best love to you all.

your loving

Pat →