

Nov 14

Hd Qrs I Cav Div  
British Expeditionary Force

PG/1209 (26)

1057

My dear one Mrs.

I didn't write to you yesterday  
so just scribbled you a post card this  
morning. I have just got in a load a  
good wash & changed into dry clothes  
& got two grand long letters from you  
of the 13-14, enclosing Blanche's letters.  
Awfully nice letters are they. I think the  
last one I sent you was the nicest of  
all. No I never got a letter saying she  
had asked for a photo of me. In one letter  
you said what photo shall I send her or  
something like that & it rather puzzled me.  
Send her the one in uniform. It is awfully  
nice of her wanting it. Do you think  
she likes me? I wonder!  
I wrote her boys the other day telling  
her all the news. I do wish Frankie would  
out here. He's not his job. Blanche is a

regular soldier & of course his job to  
be out but it must be dreadful for  
the having both boys out. Frank I think  
is standing at the best of the two.

Whenever I see them or get news of them I  
always let the Doctor know as quickly  
as possible as its more difficult for them  
to write than it is for me. & I don't think  
either of them are very good at letter writing.

I'm very fond of B. so its no trouble to  
write & I like having good news for her.

I don't think I have told you much news  
since the 16<sup>th</sup> so I'll tell you all my

doings since then.

16. We had a late breakfast. The 9<sup>th</sup> were  
in a jam next to our cotent & several  
of them came in & had a wash & cleaned  
up. They'd had a pretty bad time in  
the trenches. The weather had been rather  
bitingly cold & raining. There was a lot  
of water in the trenches, so they had  
a pretty rotten time. They were very glad



to have a good work & clean up.

About 11 o'clock I went out for a ride. It was  
 windy & sunny so I managed to take a  
 few photos. It came on to rain hard about  
 12 o'clock so I got rather wet. I got in  
 again about 1 o'clock & had lunch. Then  
 I, Hordano & I rode out & took the  
 gun & looked for porcupines in the woods.  
 They were awfully wild but after a bit  
 of manoeuvring Hordano got a brace.  
 We came in about 4 o'clock. Oh! yes I  
 wrote to you that night. A goodest  
 scotch if I remember right.

Nov 17. The bad has a good deal of shelling  
 in the night, shells still kept coming  
 close to us but nothing near enough to  
 do any damage. We heard that we  
 were coming back here & that the Cavalry  
 were to be pulled out & put into  
 Reserve for a bit. Poor devils they  
 deserve it. They've had an awful hard  
 time. The I Bde came back that night

The II Bde is still up there but comes  
back to-morrow. Poor little 'Pie'  
Annexed was killed that night by a  
sniper, the only man in the Squadron that  
killed him. I hear now that the  
Col is dead but whether its true or not  
I can't say. I'm awfully afraid it is.  
That's 5 we've lost killed if the Col is dead.  
Willie Codrington, Pie, Rose, a Terror.  
Shannon I hear has been wounded. So  
now we have Jeannette, Clem, Gibblet  
Mark Falder & Betty Palmer wounded.  
Dreadful casualties lost it.

That night we came back here & got  
in about 7 a.m. We had a bad ride.  
The whole road was blocked with  
French transport & the sides of the  
road were about a foot of mud.  
Dreadful it was. It is awfully  
nice to be back here. I like this  
house, it's more like a English house  
than anything we've struck yet.



3. Its great luxury living in a house like this.

18. I went for a ride with the J & H. I saw Tommy Pilmer who is quite alright again. He came & dined with us last night & was in great heart. I rode into the town & set you a photo (n.c.) of it about 2 miles off. Good idea that I won't it. I heard that the Russians had been held up a bit near Thom. But it's a big fortress & its only natural that they couldn't walk through it. I do hope they're doing well further south as so much depends on it. I'd give anything for this d-d slow to be over. Its dreadful loosing all our friends like this.

In the afternoon I went off to try & find the 2nd Bde & the Brook. The J & H orders went off to shoot. I met him in — & rode back with him to about 6 miles outside the

him. It's going back to the Regt. I  
do wish he wouldn't but it's no good trying  
to persuade him. He's decided to go & go  
he will. I saw J. V. He's been a bit  
sorely with a cold. But he was quite  
cheery. I got back here about 5 o'clock &  
got two letters from you, dated Oct 30  
& Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. I thanked you for about  
writing. I seem to get a letter from  
you every day. (They come right when.  
Last night's letter was Nov 12.

So it sounds I get them all mixed  
up. I'll answer them all now as I  
have plenty of time. The only thing is  
it's rather cold up here. But I'll go a  
bit & in cold & then go down stairs to  
a fire. I can't write when there's a  
crowd about, they annoy me & distract  
my attention. Yesterday was a  
lovely day. It froze in the night  
& then we had bright sunshine fully  
with all day. Glorious it was.



4. Nov 19. It froze hard last night & was  
very dark & cold this morning. The gun  
I went for a ride & rode down to B -  
where we had a couple of cars to ride us.  
Set our horses back & went off to a  
wood about 8 miles off. Home - The gun  
went in one car & Porter Bagally Allaby's  
A.D.C. took me in his. It started to  
snow on the way & the wind to rise &  
was awfully cold. We had quite fun  
& had about in the woods. We had about  
8 birds. But they were very few.  
Pheasants. The gun got a pheasant, a  
rabbit & a hen which was the total bag.  
I had a shot at a pheasant a long way  
off but it sailed away nimbly.  
It started to snow hard about 2 o'clock.  
So about 2 o'clock we went back to the  
farm & had some sandwiches & the  
come back. By then it was snowing  
hard & the ground is all white now  
a good bit of snow on the ground.

Dreadful for the poor devils in the  
trenches isn't it. It's dreadfully cold.  
I've got a Pontist woman in a state I'm  
quite cold of her.  
Haven't you just come in & says that  
we will have to move from here in a  
day or two as this area has been given  
to the II Corps. A bon isn't it.  
But better news still. He says that  
there is a rumor that officers are going  
to be given 4 days leave & be allowed  
to go home. I'm afraid it's too good  
to be true so don't bank on it.  
If it is true I ought to be able to  
get away without any difficulty.  
I'll get a wire through to you if  
I can manage it & will come straight  
to Folkestone. If I get home I must  
see Blanche somehow. Do you think  
she would be let come & stay. If not  
we could visit her on day.  
Wouldn't it be lovely seeing you all



5 again but I'm afraid it's like our  
household not which has been going on  
with a kind of come off yet.

I won't think much about it. But  
don't be surprised if I let up suddenly  
one day. It makes me quite excited  
to think about it. I had a fortnight

yesterday but of course that is quite  
impossible. Heavens, how I wish this

show was all over & that we were  
all coming home. How dear. I wish  
you could dream the end was near.

I hope Italy comes in now, I would  
like things well. Russia is hardly  
being now with Germany, Austria &  
Turkey to deal with. Italy could do  
a lot of good work & has about a  
million or so men. We could nibble  
at somebody & make herself unpleasant.

How absurd Dicky when he is  
saying he is going to the trenches.  
It's bad enough for the men but would

kill a woman. You've only got to  
see some of the I<sup>st</sup> Corps & you'd  
realise what the Troops are. It's all a  
sloth. They look more like animals  
than anything else. Old, haggard, gaunt  
& dirty with weeks & weeks of beard.  
The only redeeming feature is that they  
have had tons of food. The A.S.C.  
really has been wonderful & has done its  
job in the most marvellous way.

But the idea of any woman joining the  
forces is perfectly absurd & you  
can tell the good lady so from me.  
It's not about the making red  
cross flags tonight for their jeans.

The Germans are d...d good.

They still turn in as troops  
and billet in them. They are  
at chanks etc as they are good  
troops to buy a & may be used  
for observation posts.

It was a awful close to break up



6. lovely old places like Ypres but  
just look at the inconvenience it  
causes. If they hadn't killed Ypres  
we could have billeted a Corps  
comfortably in it. Had Had Geo  
& everything there. Now there isn't a  
soul in it. Of course it seems  
absurd to make a place like that  
up. But they make war with &  
know how to make the best use  
of their guns. You'd only have  
to try & get through Ypres & you'd  
realise that. Now all transport has  
to go round & it means a lot longer  
journeys. You see all the roads  
converge into Ypres & only small  
roads connect the big converging  
roads, consequently all the small  
roads are blocked with transport etc.  
I'll send you a map of this part of  
the world so as you can see for  
yourself the lie of the country.

Tom Bridges was in 4<sup>th</sup> D. C. I.  
He is one of the biggest men I in  
met for a very long time. As cool  
as a cucumber. One day when he was  
looking through his glasses at  
some Germans a shell plucked quite  
close to him & he never even put down  
his glasses, just went on as if  
nothing had happened.

I got such a nice letter from Mr  
Perry to night. I'll answer it  
& send it to you, but its too cold  
up here to write to him now.  
You are doing for too much with  
these old refugees. That was so  
kind for you a that boat.

Do take care of yourself we all  
& don't work too hard.

Let Emma have a photo if she  
wants it. It may answer the  
to put it in. What are you do  
don't let the write a lot of not



2. about me. It was simply like  
 an old Col of the 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars said  
 when he refused to receive any body  
 in particular for gallantry "No 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Hussar can exceed his duty"

All I did was what I was told to  
 do. It was certainly unpleasant but  
 was my duty. If they want a  
 photo let them have it but make  
 the promise no high flown language or  
 a biography or any romance like  
 that. That sort of stuff does one  
 more harm than good.

Films arrived to - night. Ever so  
 many thanks for them. I'll send  
 you 2 more rolls to have developed  
 as soon as I am energetic enough to  
 look them up. Probably to - morrow  
 morning. Too cold now.

Will you thank him for the  
 letter which I got last night.

Tell him I'll write soon but have told

you all my news. He can read this  
which ought to keep her busy for a bit.  
It is cold I think I'll stay close  
cyl warm.

Best love to you all dear ones.

Your boy

Pat

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P.S. This block is nearly finished. I still  
have about half of the other one left.

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1/10/20

P.S. I am just heard that Barb  
Drake is the right one for the job.

But Parker is mentioned again in the by.  
Barbuck I hear.