

July 2.

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My dear Mr. Mrs.

I wrote you a very brief scribble to-day just before I went up to the line. Our attack yesterday was unsuccessful being held up by machine guns. I can't tell you any details at present as there might be trouble if the censor got hold of it. It is ~~so~~ awfully disheartening considering the enormous amount of time and energy we expended in working out the plan. One would have thought there couldn't have been a hitch. But immediately our barrage lifted onto the 2^d line the Boer had his old machine guns up and played the devil with us.

Poor old Peim is killed. I'm afraid and none of his Regt with him. I know of the battle some other line. I mustn't go into details now or I might get into trouble.

I ~~am~~ sorry at the - Div and hear that Algie was wounded in the leg and arm but apparently not seriously.

July 3.

I had to stop last night as a lot of work came in & I didn't get done till nearly 1 o'clock. I thought it was time for bed. I am going to the 86th Bde as Bde Major. It isn't yet decided when I go, but it will most probably be tomorrow or the next day. I'm sorry to be leaving the General but awfully willing to get a job like that. It means an awful lot of work, & I do hope I can do it well. I'm so awfully anxious that things go well so I want the General to feel that he can really rely on me. I'm so afraid of his being disappointed in me.

Later I had to go off to Corps this morning so will continue now. The news from the South seems good.

The 13 and 15 Corps on doing well - the French have got
on well apparently. The Boer had concentrated all his
strength against us here. The hope down south apparently
went through quite early. It is rather sinking for us
having struck a snag up here. Our fellows did fight so
gallantly but they were absolutely mown down by machine
guns. However we have the consolation of knowing that
10 thousand Boer have fallen into our hands & that as
many more again must have been killed.

I am going to the 86th Bde to-morrow, so
you must mind if you don't hear from me for several
days. As there is bound to be a awful amount of work
to be done. I think you might write and say some
new little thing to the General about it. Do whatever you
think best. But I feel that he would appreciate your
writing to him. Yes I heard that about the Boer
killing of a board ~~about~~ something about ~~the~~
their knowing we were going to attack. But don't know
when it was. I must stop now or I'll miss the post.

Best love dear me then.

Yours loving

Pat.