

13- 8-17

Dear Mr^s Armstrong.

I ought to feel ashamed of myself for keeping you waiting for a letter but I am not, because I know you too know & understand how little time one has when the Bde is in the line.

Thank you all out for we rest, they have done splendid & that will be so pleased.

We were the first Bde to firmly establish posts across the river, one Bde made six & the other 4 strong posts the latter also captured a farm but were driven out of it by Fritz who also chased out a few hours later we now hold it & intend to keep it too. Each Regt had a very strenuous time & the four days cost the Bde 9 Officers & nearly 300 other ranks.

The Germans were magnificent but in this little show the people who deserve greatest praise are the Sappers, almost in a twinkling after the Jolly had crossed, carrying parties appeared as it were from the ground & the Regt began to build bridges, of course ~~at~~ only to be shelled by the Boche but they were soon repaired again.

I have just added the last sentence after a wait of two days & I am now writing this in Bed in Hospital, I got a ~~cut~~ ^{mark} on my head 6 days ago but managed to keep out until

the 13th when Gen de Lisle saw me at work
& made me leave it all for a few days but
I know he is right it is for my good but
it is hard to leave the Bde just as I might
be useful especially as the general will be
~~looking~~ getting a new Bde Major at the same
time I do feel sorry for him because he will
now have to worry after the A & G work &
I always tried to relieve of that as much
as possible. Beyond the pains in my head
& getting into a dripping perspiration when
anyone spoke I was quite fit but now I
am here I have two days in Bed I feel as
weak as a kitten, don't even want to argue
with the doctor, but it is so nice lying in
Bed, clean sheets & pillow slips.

The doctor & nurse keep telling me what a
lovely place this is & I can have this that
& other things in fact it would appear to
be a virtually fairy palace but I am just
happy between the sheets.

I must get letters quickly or I shall miss
the next show.

Many thanks for your letters, I intend writing
to Jennie but will wait a bit.

I have some lovely times with Pat we just
go on anything together & he did laugh so
much over my crank, it is lovely being quiet
with just my thoughts & they are filled
with Lassie & Pat. After the last tour

in Gen Jeff was completely done up &
after a meal we talked things over & he
said "If only that darling Boy Pat were
here what a help he would be, I miss him
more than ever".

I am afraid this is a rambling letter but
it will be better next time, I had sent
a lot of personal news to tell you but
now it has gone.

If you are not too busy write to the old
address as I shall be back in a few days.
How I did laugh over Pat & the Cabbages is
Tommy & Jane well.

I envy you the fish for they are unobtainable
out here.

now I must close but before going to sleep
I shall have a few minutes with Dear Pat.
I know you most kind will you.

Yrs Sincerely

Robt. Lee