

56 Bde HQ Co

B 8 4

26-1-18

My Dear Jessie

I was just about to write to your Mother when your kind letter arrived & now my letter will have to be included upon you.

Many thanks for your letter, I am very proud of my Cross but for the life of me I can't look upon it as a personal thing, to me it is just another honour for the Regiment I love & another VC for the glorious Division.

How pleased Pat is, & I am sure he agrees with me that it is far too big a thing to belong to just one individual.

I have been annoyed with myself for the last few days, a letter of mine to your Mother insist

have gone astray. I ought to have registered it.

I wanted so much to fix a day for you all to go to the Diamond troupe & inth for my friends men going also but I wanted your address to have the tickets sent but as I got no reply my letter could not have reached you. Please tell your mother how sorry I was.

I thought she would not mind taking you all as it was for the Division ^{Part} served & loved so well.

I have got a letter just now saying your men at Emizon Hotel I presume inth he learned it from your mother. I just feel that I have messed the whole thing through lack of foresight I am so sorry.

Yes I know must have been a trying time. I do wish I could

help to share the load with
your father, but it is just one
of those things which one must
bear alone.

Don't let her hope Jess just
be good & patient & so try to
fill in the gap made in her
life by Pat's death.

I felt awfully down over my
dear Lads at Belle H Q^s but it
surprised me how easier the load
became when I wrote to their
people - 37 of them - to try &
lighten their load & now I
find quite a number of them
are wounded & prisoners.

We finish a tour in the line
tonight & I am just waiting
for the funeral & Bn to come
in. Hot Bath & meal all ready
Rum & Hot soup for the men.
I feel a regular slacker this
time for it is the first

occasion the Bde. have never
 been on the line ^{that} I have failed
 to visit a Bn. Headquarters daily,
 to see if I could help but the
 Brigadier & Gen de Lisle just
 inside my stay at Rear Hqs;
 things have gone on just as well
 perhaps better but it is the feeling
 that I have failed to get up
 which is so annoying

Well I really must stop short
 Again many thanks & you will be
 patient with Pat's mother for her
 sake

Yr very sincerely
 Robert Lee

PS I will write to Tommy later