

Trent University Archives

Medd family fonds

Accession 81-001 Box 1 Folder 2 Letter 15

Letter: S.T. Medd to his wife, Estelle, whom he addresses as "Stell" from North Bramshott Camp, 28 December 1918. Has been in command of the Regiment on the rifle ranges. Family affairs.

Notes regarding the transcription:

In this transcription, most misspellings and grammatical anomalies which occur in the original text have been maintained, for example, "tho" for "though." Occasionally commas and periods have been added to assist in clarifying the sentence structure. Square brackets [] indicate indecipherable text.

TRANSCRIPTION

N. Bramshott Camp
28th/12/18

My Dear Stell,

I trust you received the cable before the day after – I had to write it and trust to my servant getting it away as he has been working practically night and day for nearly two weeks. All last week I was in Command of the Regiment at the rifle ranges. We had a 6 mile march to the range; then going there all day and then hit it out for camp and my return. I was engaged till near midnight on returns and other work for the next day. We marched out at 4:30 a.m. and as a rule back after dark. To make matters worse it rained nearly all the time. It was [to] be sun shine to start and within an hour, rain, rain, rain, or rain to start and after an hour or two, clear but only to start in again. The roads were simply liquid mud and the commons well like a mortar box. The men were all game and so far no bad results to any, of course, well mostly have the informal English cold that the natives say is

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is prevalent in this country at this time of year. I am rather getting over it myself but many find it hard to shake.

My girly, I rec'd your photo & the kiddies & mother. Of course, I did not expect you to snap shot yourself. I just wanted a little group. How smug Master Scott looks and Mary so serious [poor] little tot. Tell her to cheer up and give good attention at school. It will take her mind off me if by any chance that is still worrying her. I always thought Stell, that she had one of my characteristics. Very strong, namely feeling deeply but quite unable to express it. However, school should help that especially with Scott going with her.

I do hope you will have no more plumbing troubles. I was much amused by the attempt to corner Gordon. He is shifty and will keep Mr. Hill busy.

The [cloth] you speak of taken from Charlies wound is surely the cause of all the trouble he had. Things should now be some better.

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Speaking of Col. Mills I saw a letter from Peterboro yesterday and I imagine it will not be all clear sailing. However, he may now have experience enough to deal with it all. Who knows.

Tell Scott I think he has done well to be able to make a switch for his old track and you have a busy pair if Mary has commenced to make quilts even tho it is only for dolls.

Stell dear, biscuits are all in crumbs when rec'd. Others have had same result. I do not think you can put them up that they will not be smashed in the mails. I certainly will place the next latch key in a deep place in the Thames River. Poor girl but how was I to know the lock had been changed. Well there you are.

29/12/15

I was called out last night & now continue my letter. Have just returned from the ranges.

General Steele was in there to-day.

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We have been twice warned to be ready to move, one time, Egypt, another Salonica but there was nothing authentic. At present we are I believe to move in about two or three weeks, whether as a regiment or [one piece], rumour does not say. I think I will stand anything that may be ahead and I have no doubt conditions may be much harder than here. Just fancy me being wet for hours and [no] getting tired out and a hot meal, having no serious results. I merely mention this that you may keep in mind that I am going into no decline. This first wetting was a cold one too.

You will have my letter as to Arthur. I will not repeat, only least it has gone astray, to say he is the picture of health and looked as hard as nails and quite happy in his new appointment. We were both glad to meet.

I hope xmas dinner with you came off all right. Very cheery of Edna suggesting that covers be set for them. I note her Edith remark. I hope she did not fail to see you wished to have a peaceful time.

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I remember last xmas. Apparently she does also. I trust it does not drive any one out into the garden to eat worms.

Xmas rained all day or most of it. I attended []. All of us went in the men's mess. It was all right for them but being the mens feast, we fared as best we could. Later I went for a long ride in the storm and came in tired and ready for bed. I certainly missed you and the kiddies and the tree but we must not think of these things for a while my girlie. They will be just so much the sweeter when we can set them up after this world row is finished. I imagine I see them at Eatons. I suppose they are now just beginning to reminisce about the wonders.

For goodness sake let them be careful about the skates. Are they not too tiny yet for that game. Of course I can't just remember but I think I was about 8 years when I got a pair. Strange to say I never had a bad fall. I had many a nasty tumble but cat like always landed

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on my hand and knees. I never understood how I managed to make the turns. Will must be anxious about a son and heir. Well I'll let that subject along. It is wise for us both. Will will have to work it all out. He started it.

I have lots of socks (I nearly spelled it soxs) at present. I will try the pair you sent me and let you know exactly. They [look] fine if they are as good as the [cloud?] they will do. I am having a pair of trench boots made big enough to take two pair of socks so if your pair are a bit large, I will use them over the other pair.

I paid that worlds masterpiece bill I so wrote about one year ago. I can't stop them sending those letters. The only thing you can do is ignore it. I know you do not like to do that but I do not intend to pay a thing twice.

I am getting the Saturday night paper regularly now. Others get it at present

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and I was shown my picture in it several times. It created quite an impression I can tell you. It was pointed out to me that I was the only 'commoner' in that number. Amongst others, Peter, King of Serbia & Sam Hughes and well I forget the rest.

I was looking your letters over again. I think I have answered any queries. I read your letters over and again over, you know, until I get a new batch. I am rather glad Francis and the children are all to play together again. At the same time if I remember right poor Francis has had rather queer play mates and may need oversight least she passes her ideas on. But you are the best judge of all this.

The body belt is all right for size except that it is a little too wide. It might be say 1½ inch narrower.

I received the socks as I have already told you and Stell I can't tell you how glad I was to get the oval photo of yourself. At the same time, now that I have the group which will be easier carried, I may mail the other back as I am afraid

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I will be unable to carry it [] as [every] oz. has to be cut down. The reason I asked for it was that in case you had not had the group taken I would at least have one picture of you. And now I am going to say this to you, you say you are past the time when snaps flatter you. My sweetheart you will never be past the time that I will not want a snap of you. Do not make such a remark again. As the actor man said once upon a time "do not do it because I do not want you to do it, so do not do it".

Well Stell, Mrs [Walter] Brown landed here [at] about xmas time. She has been down once to lunch and feels very much that the English are so haughty. She says she told one woman she did not recognize any person as being superior to herself. Is she not a queer outfit? Ferguson's wife is also here. I think her mother sent her partly to see Ferguson and partly to see her brother. Both say it is lonely and I guess they find their husbands are not required to give all their time to their work. They are at

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a place about 3 miles away and as it rains most of the time they cannot get out much. There is some mix up about mails at present. Hence use the Army Post Office address for your next letters. Don't you think I am getting rather a tiresome length to my letter. I remember that long ago I could write ad libitum but having a stenographer & writing business letters, I got quite out of the way of writing a personal letter. Roland sent me a box up again at xmas & I also had an interesting letter from him. Remember me to all. I trust you all are well as this leaves me and with love sweetheart to you and the kiddies.

SM

P.S. I enclose a snap taken sometime ago by one of the boys. He gave it to me a few days ago.