

Trent University Archives

Medd family fonds

Accession 81-001 Box 1 Folder 2 Letter 16

Letter: S.T. Medd to his wife, Estelle, whom he addresses as Stell, 9 March 1919. Written from Queen Alexandria Hospital, Millbank, London. Is being treated for another bout of dysentery.

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

Envelope:
Mrs. Sydney Medd
452 Charlotte St
Peterboro Ontario
Canada

Queen Alexandria Hospital Millbank, Ldn
19/3/19

My Dear Stell, -

I rec'd your letter eleventh – twenty seventh Feb this morning and devoured it, although the nurse kept telling me my breakfast was getting cold. Was I happy, well I was and more. I have been very uneasy about you and the kiddies which is quite natural as I have had no word for weeks and weeks. I told the nurse I could put the teapot at the grate and rewarm my toast, that my wife's letter was what I was hungry for. Well I read it tho & was again content. You are all gold my own girl and my one prayer is that you may be made strong in mind and body and so for the kiddies in these strange times and that I may be worthy of you and them. As I cabled you I will likely be here a month yet. Just before I go on my girlie don't discount what I have said. I am not jollying or hysterical but stating to you

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to you the plain truth and I am forty odd and can tell my wife if I want to, and there you are. So do not feel badly now. As I was saying, I am likely to be in England a month yet & perhaps longer. From the 3rd of Feb until the 6th diagnosis was the [programme], that is observation & tests followed by XRay exploration & was pronounced dysentery & that it was likely continuation or the aftermath of the attack of it that I had at Ypres. Next stage was treatment, pills specific (special

dope) 6th Feb - 12th Feb & test stool showed I was still affected. 12th to 16th Feb more treatment & test report still adverse. Test 21 Feb & Feb 26th, both adverse. On Feb 26th took blood test & bacteriologist reported the bug was also in my blood. On 27th Feb they started to treat the blood end of the case. I get ½ gr or 1/3 not sure which of [] & some other juice daily [hypho] dermic injection.

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The treatment finish today, so as to make a test & see if I am ready to convalesce. I hope it will be O.K.

as my arms are both sore as the injections have used up all the soft spots days ago. As I told you there is no need for worry by either of us, as Sir James Fowler has me under his care & told me over a week ago it would be slow but that the right treatment is being followed & he was quite satisfied with my condition. He is a specialist and well known as general practitioner & as well a physician to the King. As a matter of fact, you probably saw his name in the bulletins issued as to the condition of the late Duchess of Connaught. I tell you all the above so you may know I am being properly looked after & not being experimented on & have good advice. The house M.O. is very good also as far as I can see. If I am clear of the bugs by Wednesdays report then

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then I am to go for 8 days without any treatment & if the test is then negative & shews I am clear of the Micko and Spiro-dicky-down-dilly I will need a few weeks to get up strength again as I have not had my pajamas off except to put on a clean suit since I came here. For most of the time I got up for part of the afternoon or evening & sat by the grate. The bridge etc. lasted just two weeks but I have kept at the chess and French & what with reading have managed to put in the time until about 10 days ago when I got very restless. Your letter has settled me down again even tho I do not doubt there is lots of items you do not tell me but just to know that up to at least the 27th Feb you were all in the land of the living & going strong. You are certainly having trouble in your peoples connection, never comes singly

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singly. Certainly, tell me of all changes & anything else you want to. As to the war, there is now one thing we are certain of & that is it is only a matter of time till the [Gerboy] is beaten & beaten well. It might blow up any time but I do not look for it just yet. I note what you say about Capt. Richardson. Note, all military notes are peremptory. Pity they could not have [waked] up earlier & put me under treatment at home. When I went for a board on Dec. 9th I was not aware I was other than just run down & in need of rest. I made no complaint. I am sure I would look pretty doing so. I have never crawled yet & do not propose to start now. Fancy one saying dear Dr I think I am ill please find out. Of course, if one had symptoms etc. it would be different. As far as I knew I had none. My only trouble was that I had never got back my weight or strength but I supposed that would come

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As a matter of fact I am satisfied I have been able to stand the dope I have been getting because the rest, tho adding no flesh had stimulated my general condition. On my examination here they found all my organs healthy and sound i.e. heart, lungs etc. I feel now that I am responding to the treatment & when cured should fatten up a bit. I also rec'd a letter from Hubbs & as to your opening his letter, Stell dear, open anything that comes. Fire it on to me if you do not know what to do. The letter I had from Hubbs is dated 17/12/16. I enclose it to you. Please put [it] in a safe place. I want it for future reference. Fred Hubbs I found a most efficient officer. Pity we had not more like him. He knows his work and looked after his men. I hope he comes all right. Ruth [*or*, Keith] considers he was not treated fairly. Well he met just the same condition that

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every other officer & man has had to meet. He probably has his own reasons for not sticking it & far be it from me to judge him. On the other hand, very many under same conditions have stuck it out & taken the [kick of the pot]; well Stell I see Hall is setting up in the Hamilton maison. It ought to bring them luck but if he had not gotten it some else would. So what is the difference. You see Willie H. drank and played the fool & now the others all suffer. It is the way of the world. I am indeed sorry for them. Again, is it amusing the attitude of the Straffon lot. They will find there is mighty little in quarrelling amongst themselves except to furnish town talk and sympathy. (Mind the word) blood like murder will always tell & then find that no one cares a penny when it is too late.

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Col. Edwards wined and dined. Poor old fellow he has had a hard life, always a sort of stick, misunderstood both himself and others. At least that was my impression of him.

Well my honey girl, Edna should be a good judge of how a dinner should be set and served. Has she not, many times had her legs under your mahogany for dinner? And I tell you, you do know how to set, lay & serve. Am glad Hilda has passed her [novitiate]. Let me break off a second. The fellow next me is feeling better. Has just told me butter is said to be two shilling a ha' [half] penny worth in Dresden. I told him that was nothing, that beans were 4 marks a piece in Stuttard [Stuttgart?] for a month past (a mark is practically 25 cents in peace time). He is English. "Ok really," he remarked. He believed it. O! ye Angletierre.

So Dorothy is not in debt to her Peterboro friends.

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Edna is a corker at getting & keeping when, of course, if one keeps ahead of a game all the time it costs a certain amount of maneuvering. I always thought it was hardly worth it, but she is different. Well when one knows, the only answer to maneuver is counter maneuver. I suppose you will say je ne comprends pas. In any event keep a move ahead. In chess that is a good

principle and the game of life is not much different in that respect. It is most fortunate the frost did not do more damage. You have been tried indeed. It was good of Sutherland to come so soon. I have no doubt all trades are short in help & it will be a relief to know the cold weather is over, what a dog! Well it has been just day after day of grey fog here

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& I have never experienced anything more depressing. I am so sick of Ldn.

Well Tella, it is good to know the kiddies are well. I was sorry to see you had the grippe but it is hard to escape and is so sickening. Your remark that "the house has not been uncomfortably warm," is fine and, you dear old practical body, you say you have not a keen sense of humor. Haven't you, my heart! And then oh my the naivete of your reminder of the suggestion of emergency address, I salute you keep up the systeme. I told you in one of my letters why I wrote in Jan 28th & expected to write at length as soon as I found out my destination. As I said I was sent

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sent here and waited day after day to see what was to be done with one & then when they decided I had to stay for treatment I was told it would be likely for a week or 10 days. I expected to know then definitely & then the tests were negative, i.e. shewed bugs but I have told you all before. I then cabled & wrote but as the weeks went on I had nothing new to write. As of course you have seen I cabled today. For same reason letters are on the way but the cable will show I am still here & will be here or in England a month yet & it may be more of the test today still is against me. I will have to start another 21 days treatment and as soon as I am clear of everything it certainly will take some

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time, a month at least to recuperate and get into fit condition. I can say nothing more definite than this at present.

The [Cereal] seems to be going by sections. Have they decided to rebuild? If not they are holding off for [inducements]. They will not throw up the [supply] and the concessions they have or I am much mistaken. How is Charley & the 147th? I hope he is satisfied. He certainly was the man for that job & deserves to succeed. I will write your father & him a line. Remember me to them & your mother. She has had a lot of trouble. A chap across from one pegged out night before last. His mother & wife were with him as he had been

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been low for several days. It was after midnight & I did feel for them. They seemed very nice people & bore up wonderfully. This lady had four sons in this war. This is the second gone & by all accounts he had done excellent work and more than well thought off. By the way he was given the M.C. for work at Loos nearly 16 months ago. It was presented to him here two weeks

ago. The mother reminded one of Mrs. Bertram, Jannie's mother. Remember me to your mother. I do hope she is better. It must indeed be hard for your father – he is a most remarkable man. I often think of him. I have mailed you several papers. I had enquiry made at a Post Office & was told they would go through. The one about the Irish question might interest him.

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I have been eating fish till I can feel the fins sprouting out in me. Chicken I get for one meal of each day. I am loosing no weight so with all circumstances consider things satisfactory. I suppose I should be content. One never is in this world. Well my love my happiness will be very greatly increased when this war is over and I join you again. I used a French phrase of my own coining two lines above but rubbed it out least you should think me, well just foolish & I am not. I could have told you all these thoughts of you always but somehow you seemed to well to just, as it were, keep me at arms length. I myself felt somehow that you knew, so I just went on. It was a song without words. Thought I knew the words all the time mes bien-aimé, with love and tendre pensée.

Your husband