

Trent University Archives

Medd family fonds

Accession 81-001 Box 1 Folder 2 Letter 3

Letter: S.T. Medd, North Bramshott Camp, near Liphook, Hants, England, to his wife, Estelle, whom he addresses as "Stell," 28 November 1915. He describes the camp and living conditions and writes about family matters.

Notes regarding the transcription:

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

TRANSCRIPTION

North Bramshott Camp

Near Liphook Hants, Eng.

Nov 28/15

My Dear Stell,

Your addressed as about & dated Nov. 7th rec'd. Apparently letters address to the Army Post Office London giving rank [name] Corp. Reg't & supposed address ultimately reach their destination. It takes rather longer than a letter addressed direct but has the advantages that in case one is moved they have the new address in case we are moved. (of this I have no intimation) Simple address [our] Army Post Office until I can give you a new address.

My own sizing up of affairs to date is that we will be here two months at least. At the same time if the unforeseen happens we co'd be one of the units that will be called for. This part is supposed to be the health resort of England. It is 600 feet above sea level and at present heavy mists prevail almost daily so I can envisage what it must be like in the low lands. They have the best roads here I have seen since we were in Prince Edward County but only about 12 feet wide & no ditch for the water to drain off. Consequently, when

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it rains the roads leading up hill or for that matter on the least incline become running streams. I was caught in a bad storm one night about 3 miles from camp and got a taxi to bring me home. (a Ford if you please) & I am not exhagerating it when I say the water sprayed up

over the radiator & at one place was nearly up to the hubs of the ford. I do hope Stell my mail has arrived. I have a letter from your father & have answered it & am mailing it with this one so they should get in on same mail – speaking of letters I send you one I rec'd from Arthur a few days ago. I expect to see him in London or here if he can come down early next month & will be able to tell you of him from personal observation. I have sent Arthur your fathers letter so he can see how Charlie is [progressing] and the time he had at Ottawa. Well Stell they can't do to much for him.

I was reading your letter again and see you had house cleaned. My dear girl that is nothing new. Your house was always fit and tidy and you to if you fixed up and dusted the den and the books in it in two days, I say you lost no time.

If you have a new feed tank for the radiators put in, it co'd be best to have its position changed. It should be set in the south east corner on

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the top shelf or if you require the top shelf then it could be put on a fourth shelf say 8 or 10 inches above the present top shelf & the connections made so the tank could be filled by the turning of a tap instead of as at present on having to stand and pour water in at the top – get a price of it and see what it is worth. I do not see why it should cost much.

I think I see two kiddies on tricycles. I hope they do not develop the racing instinct or you will be in danger of being run down. I do trust they may keep strong and healthy. You have doubtless sent me the snap shots I asked to have taken of you and the kiddies. A group you [] [] if you have not do so and in the meantime send me the oval framed one of yourself that I had hanging in the den. I intended bringing if with me the last time I was home but there you are.

I suppose you seen to it that Master Scott and Miss Mary pulled those books all out again into place. I trust Margaret is still as interested in all; and keeps up the good work she told me she would when I said au revoir to her. How is the furnace man keeping the heat up? I do hope he is as good as his word. He said he could not go on active service but that he (would)

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would see to it that you and the kiddies were well looked after while I was away. Stell girlie if each husband feels towards the [Kaiser] as I do, viz. that his informal war has separated me from my wife and kiddies we will win the war. If I personally get near him I will take a chance. I guess there are many others but enough of that thought. It

was a happy thought of you to cable. Did I understand. Well I guess so. At the same [] one is reconciled when one thinks that there is no immediate danger of those behind us being subject to the condition of things that the Belgian and Serbian wifies and children have had to pass through. I am satisfied that the everlasting cock sureness of the Anglo Saxon, that is in the blood of all of us, could eventually carry us to success. It may be quite a while off but it will get there.

I have a force feed oil lamp, a sort of miniature street lamp, hung in my room but some of the [] apparently are getting out of gear as it is going out, so must light my little red oil lamp. When Mrs G. socks arrive I try & remember & write. Perhaps we'll celebrate the next anniversary wedding. Well my spelling is getting worse daily. You will have to excuse it. I have a clerk for official correspondence but I can't use him for personal you know. The dim oil lamp is out of oil. I will go to mess room and continue.

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I was out to a 5 o'clock tea at the Hon Arthur Lee's place. Mr Lee is about 70 yrs of age and the local M.P., at least is one of them. His two sons are at one of the other of the fronts and the youngest a gentleman of about 40 is fit so is doing his bit working as supervisor or something of the sort in a munition factory. His two kiddies and their mother are staying with the grandparents. I forget the name of their place but it is a splendid home in a very nice park. Mrs Lee had her two sisters to help her to pore tea. One reminded me of your lady mother, the other rather a Mrs Alymer and young Mrs Lee somewhat a Mrs Young. The air of general sureness of each and all was the outstanding characteristic. They were most [hospitable]. About 12 officers went down. I had quite an interesting talk with the lady of the house. She wanted to know if we did not have long severe winters in Canada. Stell, I was tempted to say yes, that we curled 10 months in the year, but on second thought she had

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enough misunderstanding of Canada so I told her we had roses blooming in our garden in November, that we only had 6 weeks of cold weather, that our mountains rivalled [] and the Hymilias in superb grandeur, that we travelled for days without being out of sight of a centre of population. She wanted to know if the country was not quite all taken up and she supposed there were few opportunities there now. I assured her there was room for 125 million people yet. Oh I did Canada justice. Lee jr two kiddies are almost the age of Scott and Mary and I tell you, to use a bit of slang, they have nothing on our second generation. Scott could carry the boy and Mary needs no help in meeting their little lady. People here sit down to dinner at 7:30 & talk about 2 hours at table.

I was at a very old Parish Church the other day. Our camp is at the four corners of the counties and I am going to the other two later. The service is about the same as at St. Johns. I was at the Bramshott Church a couple of weeks ago.

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I was allotted two horses yesterday and picked them myself. One is a very nice horse. If you remember the one Alf Shaw had years ago in Peterboro, you can judge what my [colt] is like. The other one is like old Prince at Millbrook so I am not so bad off. I was lucky in winning the toss for first choice in both the 1st & second [selection]. One of the Baskins from Norwood is looking after them for me. Lord Brooks has arrived and is in command. I intend to call later. I have a comfortable room now, heated by a rather small fireplace. This hut has 5 large rooms and two small. I commandeered a large one and had a bath & wash stand made. I will try and get a snap of the diggings. The fire place goes out about 3 a.m. and it gets rather cold but it is enviable compared with what the boys had to live in last winter.

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One can see for a long distance in almost any direction from this camp & when the east wind blows we all know it.

I can't understand where the story came from about the 300 nurses in the voyage over. The only women on board were either 4 or 5 stewardess. I think they were in any event never part of the crew. I hear Mrs. B saw the paper and cabled she was coming out. She will not have much of a time and the Lord only knows how long we will be here. We start work now at 8:30 and knock off at 5 p.m. with 1½ hours off at noon. Mrs Lee asked me to call again and I certainly will. Sunday afternoon is about the only day one can go off and the kiddies there are so like Scott and Mary. The Lees place is only 4 miles away. The people here think nothing of that. By the way, all dogs here must be lead on a leash. They say it is to keep stray [] chasing the game. So I see this daily & do not now consider it a fad. You had better get a leash and a whip lash for your dog.

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I hope none of the rotten poison gang get him. I am sure the [] (before the flood furniture) will make a great change in the drawing room. Over here I see a great deal of old furniture and it certainly has lines that the new stuff has not.

They have a scarcity of medical dr's and Capt Archibald had been commandeered and is I believe off to somewhere on the strength of a field hospital. We were sorry to see him go, as well all his

eccentricities. He was an efficient officer. Mrs McCullough [can send me] perhaps. I have heard as yet nothing of the other Peterborough Dr. [] Young is in France. His outfit have been in action, not seriously you know. Just in action. Lee saw him three weeks ago & he was hail & happy perhaps.

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Well my dear I will close and might say beyond a bad cold I had for the first 10 days I have been well. I am told even the natives have it bad so one can't expect to escape what they cannot. I have had no serious illness in my squadron & all are looking well.

Give the kiddies an extra hug for me and for you my sweetheart. Believe me yours as ever.

S.M.

P.S. I enclose a letter I had from Arthur

Envelope
Mrs. S.T. Medd
452 Charlotte St.
Peterboro, Ontario
Canada