

D. James. 657.

13th Column No. 4 Coy.

1st Batt. Wild. Guards.

B. E. F.

France

Dec. 21st 1915.

Dear Aunt Lizzie,

I received your letter and Postal order yesterday evening, and wish to thank you for same, it will come in very useful, when we are back in reserve tillie, as there are plenty of shops in this town, despite the fact that it is only a mile and a half behind the front line. The Germans drop shells here occasionally and I hear that one civilian got killed yesterday.

We come here yesterday afternoon, after a rest of six days in a place about 5 miles back, and are at present in reserve for a couple of days, before we occupy part of the front line.

Jack's lot is in this part too, last time we were in the trenches, he was about a mile on our right, and although I made a bold attempt

at seeing him, by taking a walk up the trench,
I had to give it up, as the distance was too
far for me to leave my platoon, and I feared
that I would be missed, however I am sure
to drop across him sooner or later now that we
are in the same vicinity, I have met several
chaps of his battalion, and made several en-
quiries to see if anyone knew him, but could not
find anyone.

I sent some Xmas cards from the
last place we came from. I saw some English
ones in a shop, they were not very classical
but would do alright, perhaps you won't get
it Christmas day, I posted them yesterday.

We shall not be in the trenches
Christmas day, but back here, which will
be better, I should not like to spend it in
the trenches, the weather is cold and very
wet.

I received the parcel you referred to,
from Aunt Olive and Letty and have written

to Letty to say I got it alright. I had one from Mother by the same post as your letter and am writing to-day.

By the way, I did not get the cigarettes and to-bacco that Ronald subscribed for to the Express Journal. Very rarely such packages reach us, more often than not, we don't get them, so I should tell Uncle Tom that it would be advisable not to send any more, as it is only a waste of money. We get cigarette and to-bacco in abundance issued out to us and I have an excellent stock of to-bacco now.

I hope you are getting on alright at the recruiting office, I dare say you have plenty of work to contend with. Mr. Stanley Vaughan will get off alright as he holds an important position on the Collieries, and I don't think they call such men up.

I shall have to leave my letter writing for a time now, so will conclude with best wishes and a happy Xmas to you all at Belmont.
Your affectionate Nephew David