

Transcription

Copy of a letter by George Francis Murphy in France written on 23 December 1916

23/12/16

Dear Wifey,

I am sending Beddie away on leave today, so have an unexpected opportunity of getting a note to you. It is pouring outside and I' in a dugout, about 5 ft square, built of sandbags, up in Delville Wood. Personally I am feeling as well as I ever felt, though I'll probably need all my health by the time this long spell is ended.

I received your cable dated 6th Dec. yesterday. It came by post from Gibraltar; I'm glad you have the Moonstone at last. I was beginning to worry about it. I'm sure you'll like it, and when I come back it will be one of the pretty things for me to take off. Dreams again. I'm expecting word each day that you have heard of my promotion. I've had letters and cards from all directions and everyone seems immensely pleased.

I am sending you some views

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of Amiens Cathedral and a souvenir of Mametz Wood. It was cutout of a window in a hut there. I think it is worth framing don't you? Most of the officers signed it, but a few were not there at the time.

It is bitterly cold here, and the wind is roaring past at fully 40 miles an hour. The rain drives in everywhere, and mud is knee deep anywhere off the selected track, and yet the fight goes on, and the crowd back there, still hangs back. I can see myself being 'laid out' for speaking my mind after I return.

On the back of these sheets you will find 'Somme' mud. Paper is scarce right forward here, and it's too cold to rewrite. Besides it's a good souvenir.

I am sending this at once, so will close up now. Will write by usual post before we get in on 26<sup>th</sup> inst.

Your loving

Geo