

Transcription

Copy of letter written by George Francis Murphy In France on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1917

[Written across corner] I'll write to you on 20/8 no matter where I am.

10/7/17

Dear Girlie/

I wonder if this will reach you. I see that mails dated 22nd May have been lost, so that means that both letters to & from here have gone. C'est la Guerre. Just at present the Hun is dropping pretty big stuff on the main road a couple of hundred yds away, so the new hands fancy they are at war at last. Fancy Billy Hughes' statement re our spell turning out to be such a prophecy. It looks very like being an accomplished fact at this rate.

I sent some books and a parcel for you to England, to send by Capt Hobbs, but he sailed on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, so I fancy I missed him. Probably it has gone by post ere now. I hope you like the bag. – I am posting some books for the little ones, and a bosche 'plane (taube) for Boyo, made here in camp.

Needless to say, I've not had any word from you for some two weeks or more, but we hope we shall get some letters soon. – The old Hun must have some fresh amm. In. He is

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still shooting away. The shell is a beauty too, just like a bullet, with its long tapering point, but as tall as Boy was when I saw him last.

I fancy Jack Paul will be O.K. now. He had a very close call, and will scarcely come back to the line again. I expect he will go home. But what an awful shock when one of my closest friends Gen. Holmes was killed. A man who had an utter contempt for danger; who stood upright when all others quailed, to be struck down 3 miles behind the line by a chance shot, and no one else in the party injured. Holman was here about 3 days before, and I had a yarn with him. The boys call his Private Sect' a conscientious objector. He wears plain clothes and long hair. Also a MANLY cap. We thought he was a jockey at first. I got an attack of 'flue' next day. All Holman could say was "HOW are you?" What an irony of fate that the soldier be killed and the politician go free.

The poppies are out again and their old companions, the corn flower. I am never tired of looking at them.

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I have just heard that the parcels were sent to Capt Hobbs by post. – I have written to him at Gosford, and asked him to send them on to you. Don't know why on earth they were sent to him at all.

I am sending those French Books off tonight and also the taube for Boy. I hope they all get there O.K. There is a rumour about camp that the Kaiser has "given in" but we don't believe it. We all want another go at him. I have just been reckoning up the honours of the Bn {18 Bttn written in margin} since we came to France. Here they are. Two D.S.O. 15 Mil. Crosses and one bar (equivalent OM) 3 D.C.M.s 1 Meritorious Service Medal 1 Medaille Militaire 1 Bronze Medal (Italian) two Croix de Guerres, and 35 Mil. Medals. – Besides numerous mentions in Despatches.

My own dates, as far as I've seen, show three (3) times in despatches and the D.S.O. – As long as I don't get into the Roll of Honour it will be O.K.

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Alan is getting on O.K. and is very popular. He is Asst Adjutant. One of the Beavis boys has gone home for a change. – Les come over very often now for a yarn. He is a very nice lad. I met one of the H.E. Suttons two days ago. He is in the Machine Gun Coy. I haven't seen Will since I had a letter from Reg. but I fancy I sent it on to you.

Well Girlie, I do hope this letter gets through to you O.K. The May 20 to 31<sup>st</sup> mail was a very hefty one, - but it went down in the Mongolia. -/ I'm very scared lest those stamps were sent on and lost.  
– Better cancel the whole thing if not already sent.  
I have some coins for you also – I think I include them in the aeroplane.

Good Bye Dearest. Mine is an unfailing love, so don't worry.

Your loving

George