

Alpl H R Mailer
B. Coy. 30th Batta-
on active service abroad.
17/11/16

Dear Jack,
I don't know
whether you received the note I
sent you from Capetown, but
I haven't heard from you, so
I suppose it's gone astray like
many another. Just now we
have to write a series of
farewells to all our friends;
tonight hence we will be enroute
off to France to do battle
against the Hun. We've been
training very hard for a long
time, indeed we have been
overtrained and reached a sort
of Plateau condition, but the
news of a new round has
all & we are quite lively

in view thereof. Last week we
had a Divisional March, &
the length of the column was
fifteen (15) miles - of course it
included our artillery &
Engineers & all that.

Our camp is in the heart
of Salisbury Plain, & within
1000 yards of the South Wonder
of the World, 'Stonehenge' - you
probably know a lot more than I
do about it, but it is really
starting to be marching over
such historic ground & seeing
such marvels of the Age. We have
heard numerous versions of the origin
of Stonehenge & the theory that ~~great~~
deep holes were sunk in the ground
& the stones dropped in ~~them~~ & then
all the earth dug away from the
stones, appeals ~~to~~ to me, more than
the others. We walk
this a great old Roman

Rampart - on our way to our
nearest village Amestory -
we drill over & about places
where Christmases were held
& ancient Roman burial mounds,
or some people call them, others
call them "tumuli".

Had you days leave to
visit London; & of course we saw
all we could see - Tower of
London (all its romantic spots) Tower
Bridge, Westminster, St Pauls,
St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse
& all sorts of wonderful places.

In the House of Commons we heard
Asquith, Churchill, Balfour, Borer
Law & who not! I have since
had a short leave & visited
Horton, in Devonshire, the home of
Horton lace - & also the home of
my foremother!

I haven't time to give you descriptions
but London of course is a place

of surprise & bewilderment!
Amston a place of quiet & peace
& restfulness, with its little hedged
fields, its quaint old houses & streets
— ~~to~~ on — Yet everything only
goes to show me that pictures
of English beauty that I used to
reckon exaggerated are not
only true but rather less
beautiful than the places
really are.

Soon we will be in France
& I guess there'll be lots of
interesting things over there —
including bombs, bayonets, shells
& shot holes, trenches & troops,
& blood & thunder!

We "kid" we are a brave lot
but at heart most of us feel just
a nice tremor — but we steel
ourselves!

Good bye —
Your sincerely
Doc.

