



Transcript
Correspondence from William James
Johnston, 1916-1918
A995.023.013

A995.023.013 (01)

Pembroke, Ont.
Jan. 16th/16

Dear Mother,

This is my last day in Pembroke as I leave for Guelph tomorrow. If I pass my medical exams I will be stationed there with the 43rd Battery. I resigned some time ago but my relief just arrived yesterday. You remember Bert Sutherland, well he is taking my place. He is a nice fellow and will get along fine as they are very nice people up here. They have been mighty good to me and I hate to leave but, of course, you know somebody has got to go. I don't know when they will let me off to get up home but I will go as soon as possible.

Tell Wilfred I got his invitation to their dance and would like to be there but don't think I can make it.

I will write again as soon as possible and let you know how I am getting along. When you are writing send it to

W.J. Johnston,
c/o 43 Battery,
Guelph, Ont.

A995.023.013 (02)

Headquarters, The Armouries
Guelph, Ont.
Mch 12th / 16

Dear Mother-

You will think I am slow in writing but I couldn't possibly do any better. I have just recovered from a very bad cold and sore throat.

I could scarcely swallow for about a week and besides that I was working all the time. The Bugle calls at 6:30a.m. and I am on the go until after 10:00 o'clock at night every day and have to work today also, although it is Sunday. I am writing this right after

breakfast and am going to skip church parade as this is my only chance to get any writing done. I wish to thank you for the parcel which I received last week. The candy was fine and the socks and handkerchiefs were just what I was needing. Please thank Mrs. Alexander for me as I don't believe I can get time to write her just now.

Tell the boys to not be in any hurry in enlisting as it would just break up the home and they would find this the hardest life they ever experienced. I don't expect to get home for some time but will do so as soon as possible. Be sure the boys don't enlist without letting me know first anyway.

Hoping to hear from home often.

I am your son, Will

A995.023.013 (03)

Petawawa Camp, Ont.
Sept. 7th, 1916

My Dear Mother,

Just a line to let you know that we are leaving camp tomorrow night. We didn't expect to leave until Saturday but as I am working in the office at Head Quarters I got the news now just as soon as it arrived. I will have to get somebody to take my suitcase to the station so you can get it some time you are down town. Wilfred can get it if he is down Saturday night.

I really don't know what is the matter but I have never heard from home since I left. Surely the boys will do better after I have gone overseas, they must remember that I am away from everything that is called home. I am very busy but will try and write you again before we sail and will write you just as soon as we land. Please don't worry about me as I think we will have a good trip across and everything will be all right.

With love to all,
I am your son,

Will.

A995.023.013 (04)

Halifax, N.S.
Sept. 11th, 1916

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My Dear Mother,

We arrived in the city early this morning and don't know how long we will be here but expect until tomorrow night. Everything is kept from us and we are not allowed to leave our car nor to raise the windows. We are not allowed to speak to anyone outside nor to send out any mail so I will have to work some scheme to get this posted. I don't know whether I will get time to write you again before we sail or not but will if possible.

Some of our boys live in Halifax and are only a couple of blocks from their home yet they cannot leave and their people don't know they are here.

We had a fine trip so far and came through all kinds of country but none of it could equal old western Ontario. I asked a girl to post a card for me from Montreal and I hope you got it, That cake which you gave me was just fine and I shared it with all the boys in our tent. I got quite a number of boxes from Pembroke people also several pairs of socks.

I must stop at once.

Any one maywrite me now to:
No. 307700, Gnr W.J. Johnston
55th Battery, 14th Brigade C.F.A.
Army Post Office, London, England

A995.023.013 (05)

Sept. 17th, 1916

My Dear Mother:

Of course I don't know whether you will ever receive this or not as we are not half way across the "Pond" yet, but here goes any way. It will make me feel much more at home to imagine I am talking to you and I tell you what, its taken a whole lot to give one that feeling out here.

Well, mother we left camp a week ago last Friday night and were in Montreal the following morning. I wrote you a card from there and also a couple more farther down the line which I hope you got. We travelled down through Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia arriving in Halifax Monday morning.

Don't blame the people of Quebec any more for not enlisting for they are so far behind the times that I doubt if they know that our country is at war. They certainly are a long piece behind the Ontario people and I would hate like everything to find myself living

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down there. Every building is a little frame structure painted white and each farm has only 2 fields - the old French style and I couldn't help noticing "the old oaken bucket" wells. We got off the train at one little town where everybody was French.

I tried to buy some bananas from a little girl and the only way I could make her understand was to hold up the money I wanted to spend and point at the bananas. In the same town a man was out with an ox and the boys jumped onto the ox's back and another bunch on the wagon and drove all over town. We also had a good time in Camp Bellville where we stopped for an hour.

Every buggy that came near the Station one of the boys would jump on the horses back and drive round where ever they wished. We also stopped at Moncton and Newcastle, N.B. and met a nice little girl at Newcastle. This is not the Newcastle where I used to work you know. We got on the Metagama, Monday afternoon and sailed at 7:00 o'clock Wednesday morning. The first 2 days I felt fine and developed a great appetite but it soon passed away. I haven't been really seasick yet but have felt very funny. I was good and dizzy and lost my appetite for a couple of days but am feeling much better today, Sunday.

Some of the boys feel miserable though, they get as pale as corpse's and can't possibly smile. It makes you laugh to see them but I guess my turn will soon come.

A995.023.013 (06)

Envelope addressed to: Mrs. David Johnston, Paisley, Ont., Canada

Postmarked Sept. 24, 1916 Witley and Oct 7. 1916 Paisley

"I have read this" written in pencil at top.

A995.023.013 (07)

Witley Camp
Sept. 27th, 1916

Well Mother,

Here I am safely landed in England and feeling fine. We are at Witley Camp - all Canadians and it is said to be the nicest in England. We are only a short distance from London and I expect to get down there before long. I can't send you very much news, as I really don't know how much will pain Mr. Cemon, but I don't think it would be any harm to tell you that we had a Zeplin scare last night although nothing serious happened.

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It was nice and bright all day but very cold at night and the morning. I have seen very little of the country yet, but you don't need to see much of it to know that it is grand. The grass is as green as the spring time, the hedges, the flower-gardens, the old houses and everything is swell. We are staying in a hut and I think we will be quite comfortable. There is a little town on the camp where a soldier can buy anything he wishes. Tell the boys I will write them as soon as I can and for them to write me at once as I am anxious to hear from home. And say mother some time, whenever you can would you please send me that flannel shirt which I left at home and also one of those good fruit cake of yours as a soldier's food is very plain. There will be a \$20.00 cheque come to you each month after a while which you can deposit to the credit of our account, but you will use any of it that you wish for these expenses and for getting anything which I may ask for.

Your loving son,
Will.

A995.023.013 (08)

Witley Camp.
October 19th, 1916

Dear Mother,

Just a line to let you know that I am still in England and expect to be here for a while. We haven't had any horses since we came over here but I think we will get them next week so then we will get lots of hard work. Some of the other fellows got 400 mules last night so they will have some excitement as the brutes kick everything in sight.

Well mother I guess that Wilfred has already told you that we got our 8 days leave shortly after we arrived and that I spent my time in London. It certainly is a wonderful place and one could spend a long time there sight-seeing. I was all through the Parliament buildings, the Tower in London, St. Paul's Cathedral Westminster Abbey and many, other such interesting buildings. I was at service in Westminster Abbey one Sunday morning it was also there that I saw the tombs of all England's old Kings and Queens. The museums and the Tower are also interesting. It was in the Tower that I saw the Royal Jewels which are wonderful. Amongst them is the Kimberley Diamond which is the largest in the world. I was also through the Kings' stables which are full of fine horses. It is there that the Coronation wagon is kept. This carriage in 3 1/2 tons in weight and is drawn by 8 horses.

This is an interesting old county and one can't help liking it. I think I will fall in love with some nice little English girl and stay right here after the war. The girls down town give a concert every Sunday night to the soldiers and some of them are mighty good. The food

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isn't as good here as we used to get in Canada and although I buy some every day everything costs high over here. Fruit is very scarce and one can hardly buy it out here.

I had a letter from Lula and she said she would probably be up to see you at Thanksgiving. I hope she was and be sure and send me all the news in your next letter.

One of the boys whom we left in Petawawa hospital with appendicitis died shortly after we left. He was a fine fellow.

Hoping to hear from home both soon and often I am,
Your Loving son,
Will.

No 307700 Gnr W.J. Johnston,
55th Battery, C.F.A.
14th Brigade
Witley Camp, Milford,
Surry County, England.

A995.023.013 (09)

Witley Camp,
April 7th, 1917,

Dear Mother,

I have in been a little long in writing but that is because I haven't been feeling very well this last while. I have had an abscess on my nose and it has been very painful but I think it is getting better now; and I sincerely hope so.

Tomorrow is Easter Sunday and we are still here although we expected to be gone long ago. It is strange how they keep us here so long.

Did I tell you that one Section out of our Battery went across about 2 weeks ago and they are up in the firing line now. Patten, whom you met in Mildmay was amongst them and he says there is lots of mud over there, but of course he couldn't give us much information. Jim Thompson was down to see me today. He was telling me that Jack is out of the office now and also that Tom is in the General Hospital, Guelph. I hope it is nothing serious with him, but I am sure he will get good treatment down there. You will recognize the boys in the snaps which I am enclosing. When we thought we were leaving for France a short time ago I sent home a parcel with all the snaps which I had there in it. Did I tell you in my last letter about it? There was a little broach in it made out of a button of my tunic. I got it covered with gold and mounted as I thought you would

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like to have it, to wear. A number of the boys have sent them home from here, and oh yes mother, I want to thank you very much for the fruitcake which was great. It came all right in the paste-board box but it was the cloth which it was sown up in which saved it.

If you haven't paid my insurance when you get this letter please do so at once as it falls due this month. I think you will have paid it before that time but I was afraid you might forget. I think the premium is \$48.63, but you will get all particulars on the Policy in my trunk and the bank will send it for you out of our account. After the company gets the money they will send back receipt, also a paper with different options as to the way of using the interest on my premiums and I wish you would ask one of the boys to put a cross under the one which reads "leave the money to the credit of the policy earning interest." They will understand what I mean when they have read it over and this is the way that I have always done it.

How are you all keeping, I hope you are feeling well again and that you are not working so hard as you used to.

With kindest regards to Dad and everybody at home I am
Your loving son
Will

No. 307700
Gnr W.J.Johnston
55th Battery, C.F.A.
Army Post Office,
London, Eng.

A995.023.013 (10)

Canadian School of Cookery,
171 Clapham Road,
London, s.w.

July 7th, 1917

My Dear Mother:

I am writing this from London for I was sent down here on a course 2 weeks ago and I will be here for another week. I certainly was fortunate in getting the trip for it is an agreeable change and we are not working very hard. We are off duty at 5:00 o'clock and are at liberty to go where we wish during the evening. I can't tell you what a relief it is to us.

We had some excitement this morning, thought London was attacked by a fleet of 30 airships and they dropped bombs right over the center of the city. I haven't been away

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from the school yet but they say that 4 of the airships were brought down and also that the General Post office was burned besides much other damage, so have not heard the number but of course many people were killed. They were only a short distance from our school and were coming straight for it when they were forced to return by our anti-aircraft guns. One could see the shells explode and also some of the ships come down.

Living is frightfully high here and I do wish you would send me a money order for \$25.00 as I am spending nearly all the money I have while down here.

Be sure and tell the boys not to enlist until they are just forced into it by conscription for I have seen and heard some awful things which I wouldn't want to see them have to come through.

I am enclosing a few snaps which we took on our way down here.

Well mother, I must meet a little girl in a few minutes so must ring off for now with love to all at home, I am
Your son,
Will.

A995.023.013 (11)

Somewhere in France
August 26th, 1917

My Dear Mother,

Here we are in France at last for we left Witley on Monday morning and after spending a day at the old city where we landed we came on to this camp where we will probably remain for a few days before we go up to the Firing line. We had an easy trip across in a cattle boat and while travelling by train in boxcars, but one doesn't mind that any more.

We are also having very nice weather and have an excellent place to camp. The evenings become quite cool though and so we are billeted out in the nearby stables and in-houses.

The 2 blue boys came over with us in the Signalling Section and I think the boys from home will follow in shortly. I got the Thompson boys to mail a parcel for me, which contained my Kodak, ring, watch, a pin for you and several other trinkets. They will also send you a film which you can get some prints off, if you wish but I think they will send me some themselves.

I wrote you during the first week in July for a cheque which has not yet arrived and I also wrote you some time later for \$50.00 which I thought I might need before leaving England but I got along all right without it.

There are no signs of war here at all although we are only a few miles behind the firing line, for the people are now gathering in good crops.

Say mother, would you please send me a combination suite for underwear, size 38 and it must be cotton and as light as possible. I can't send you much news but will write as often as possible, hoping to hear from you in the near future .

I am your son,
Will

Address:
No. 307700
Gnr W,J. Johnston,
55th Battery C.F.A,
13th Brigade, Canadian,
Army Post office,
France.

A995.023.013 (12)

France
April 17th, 1918
My Dear Mother,

This is to let you know that I am fine and enjoying very good health and also to thank you for the parcel which I received a week ago. The butter is a great treat over here but it doesn't last long as the box is always shared with all the boys who are present when you open it and the butter is the most popular. Those raisin pies though which you sent in your second last parcel were great. They kept well and were just as fresh as the day you made them. That was the first pie I have tasted since I left Canada for the English or French don't know how to make pie. I am going to write Mrs. Daniels the first chance I get.

While wondering through a graveyard this evening I stopped in front of a cross with this inscription

No. 841028
Pte E .B. Pearce,
24th Can. Batt.
Killed 14-10-17

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and I took it down for I thought it might be Emerson Pearce's grave. Please tell the boys to ask the Pearce's if that was his number first time the see them. Please let me know if George Purdy has been killed, for I also saw a Sergeant's grave by that name, but I don't know what unit he was with.

I had a letter from Jack Thompson last night and he and Jim are both in this country now. They came over about 2 weeks ago and expect to be drafted into the first Batt. They have got some hard fighting ahead of them for this is the very fiercest season. I don't know where they are though and so will be unable to see them unless we meet by accident.

Well, mother, an old soldier has started telling me about his experiences in India and Africa and he won't let me do any thing else but listen so I must ring off for now with love to all at home.

I am your son,
Will

A995.023.013 (13)

France, 7/8/1918 [August 7, 1918]

My Dear Mother,

This will be just an note to let you know that I am still O.K. for I am very busy. I have received the 2 boxes which you sent me some the ago. One of them arrived a week ago and other tonight. The jar of strawberries was great, also the butter which arrived tonight was in perfect condition and you don't know how good that homemade cooking is. I also received a box from Tommy, tonight and one from Lula and Grand Valley on the last mail but I haven't had time to acknowledge receipt of them yet. I will write you as often as possible but don't worry if you don't hear from me as often as usual for I will be all right, although we are quite busy just now.

We are having rainy and muddy weather just now but the fall will soon be here then it will be pretty quiet over here.

Well mother, I must now ring off with love to all at home, and how is Dad? I hope he is keeping well.

Your son,
Will

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A995.023.013 (14)

Endell Street
Military Hospital,
London, Eng.
Oct. 13th, 1918

Dear Harvey,

I suppose you and all my good friends at home will be thinking I have forgotten them, since I have not been writing regularly but such is not the case. Since early in the summer I have found it absolutely impossible to write to any one for we have been on the go all the-time, and I never felt much like writing letters.

Since I am now in London I am going to tell you a few things which it is impossible to tell from France and that is "Stay away from that Country." It is hell and especially so in the infantry. Register a complaint about your leg which broken and say that you can't stand that training. At any rate get out of the infantry, and stay away from here as long as possible. We have been and still are fighting our hardest and with very good results, so I sincerely hope that it will be finished before you get here. I have seen some pretty rough fighting but so far have come through without a scratch. Over a year ago I was gassed, so that I lost my voice for a month but I got over that and then again I have been hit by splinters of shells but they, were so far spent that they did me no harm. I have got a shrapnel bullet in my pocket, which hit me in the thigh and would have given me an nice "Blighty" only it was almost spent.

I left France on the 1st of the month for a 14 days leave, the first I have had in over 2 years, but it is now almost gone. I have had a very fine time only I am not feeling well this last couple of days. I have just got a worn-out feeling and I think it is due to my nerves which are not as good as they ought to be. Oh yes! I forgot to tell you that on a number of different occasions "Heinie" has come over with his bombing-planes and has killed from 40 to 60 horses in one night, just in our batter alone. He also gets an number of men and on one occasion I was the only one in a groups of men who wasn't hit, I don't know how I escaped. I think I told you that I am a cook and out of 9 cooks which we have had, there is only one fellow and myself left.

And about my leave, I spent a week of it in good old Ireland and had a great time. In Belfast the people treated us like kings and so we never got any farther. I didn't look up any of our relations at all as I was having too good a time to leave it. There is lots to eat over there and I like it very much. I also met some swell little Irish girls.

I intended to write mother long ago, but will do so tomorrow for sure. Don't tell her anything out of this letter that will make her worry, but I just wanted you to know something of what is going on over here.

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I must ring off for now hoping to hear from you soon and wishing you good luck.
I am,
Your brother,
Will

A995.023.013 (15)

Endell Street,
Military Hospital
London, Eng.
16/10/18

My Dear Mother,

Here I am in an English Hospital but is nothing serious so you need not worry.

On Sept. 30th I was given leave from France, and although I was not feeling very well at the time I felt better during a week which I spent in Ireland but I took sick again and sailed for England that night arriving in London the following morning. I went to the doctor and he sent me here where I have been since that Monday. It isn't anything serious, only I felt very miserable for a while. I think it is just a completely run down system as I felt weak, a sick stomach, headache and a cold but I am almost well again. I enjoyed myself in Ireland, and I met some very nice people but I didn't go any farther than Belfast as the weather was very disagreeable. I will tell you more about it in my next letter.

When writing just use my old address as I may be back there by the time a letter arrives and if not, they will know where I am.

I don't expect to be in this hospital very long but don't send me anymore boxes though till I give you my sure address because I will never get them if I am not there.

With love to all at home,
I am,
Your son,
Will

A995.023.013 (16)

France, 31/10/1918

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My Dear Mother,

This is to let you know that I am now back with my old Battery and that I am feeling fine again also I want to thank you for 2 parcels which arrived O.K. but which I never saw. You see they came while I was in the hospital in Blightly and so the boys ate them all. They asked me to tell you how good they were – especially the butter but I was very sorry to miss them. Once a parcel comes to France it can't be forwarded to England and the boys can't carry it, as that is impossible so they are always very glad to eat it. I will get them all right after this though, I hope.

Tell Wilfred that his letter was also waiting for me when I returned yesterday and I was glad to get it. I will write him as soon as possible. I wrote Harvey while I was in the hospital and hope that he is still in good old Canada.

I had a letter from Rosella Childs yesterday and she is now living at home but is almost well again. I suppose you know that Margaret is "attending" college in Toronto so she will be having a "good time". Rosie sent a snap of the 2 girls and it was fine. I think they are both nice-looking girls. I also heard from Stella McKenzie and she gave me quite a lot of Paisley news. She said she often met Wilfred and also Harvey with his little Lady-love. Some lady told me that Wilfred was now going with Ella Dalgarno – I wonder if that is so. I think she is a nice little girl and I am going to write her some of these days for I owe her one.

Well mother, it is now getting late so I must rign off for now with love to all at home. I am
Your son,
Will

A995.023.013 (17)

France
Nov. 11th, 1918

My Dear Mother,

This is a great day for at 11:00 o'clock this morning an armistice was declared, which means that the war is over, for although peace has not been signed Germany has admitted that she is thorough trimmed. She has agreed to throw down her arms and to beat it back some distance into Germany where her army will be demobilized. I expect that we will advance right into Germany a very short time and that we will remain there till peace has been signed. At that will take only a short time and I am sure we will be back home in a very few months now. It is hard to realize that the war is all over and that we will soon return to civil life again, but I am mighty glad that it is true.

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I do hear from Lula quite regularly and am going to write her tonight. I also had a letter from Mrs. Neal last night and must write her first chance I get.

There is a boy in our Battery from her city who knows her - he says that they have got a great business.

Has Harvey left Canada yet- if not, tell him that we don't need him. I am mighty glad that he didn't get here as I hated like everything to think that he was coming out to lead this life. I haven't seen or heard of the Thompson boys for sometime, but I sincerely hope that they are all right. I know that their units have seen some very hard fighting recently and I have often thought of them. I got the Advocate last night and was surprised to hear of Bert Mawhinneys' death. I have heard of Harry Jack and some of the other boys but didn't know that they had got Bert also.

We are getting along fine now as we are not molested by shells or gas and we are billeted in houses. Also the weather is good these days as it is bright and sunny.

Well mother, I must now right off with love to all at home and hoping to see you all soon.

I am your son,
Will

A995.023.013 (18)

Belgium
Nov. 25th, 1918
My Dear Mother,

It was this morning that I received your letter dated Oct. 31st and as I have got a few minutes to myself this evening , I must reply. I got a nice mail today as there were half a dozen other letters, including one from Lula. She enclosed some very interesting snaps and she also said that she had been trying to persuade you to visit her but without success. Also I had a nice box of candy from Mrs. Neal a few days ago, and I was very pleased to hear from her. I have not yet received the Xmas boxes which you mentioned in you last letter but they will come all O.K. in a few days. We will soon be getting lots of boxes until after the festive season is gone.

We are having a fine time mother as we are now far beyond the scenes of battle and are travelling on good roads during the day and sleeping in good beds at night. We stop at Belgium towns and so are billeted in the civilian homes. These people excel in the making of beds, for there are dandies, and a soldier almost hates to climb into them, they are so white and clean.

I hope you have all escaped the "Flu" for it is a bad sickness and appears to be very thick all over Canada. Whatever you do keep away from it and be careful not get it.

With love to all at home I am,
Your son,
Will

A995.023.013 (19)

Germany,
Dec. 9th, 1918

My Dear Mother,

This is a view of the town in which we are spending the night. We came across Belgium and galloped across the border into Germany at 12:50 on the Friday Dec. 6th and are now quite a distance on in Germany. We have only got 3 days trip now until we are at our destination then I suppose we will spend about a month there. We are getting along fine the weather is good also the roads for travelling and we are spending our nights in German homes. We are using them right and they are doing the same for us. It is quite evident that they were longing for peace and this is a great experience.

I haven't received the Xmas boxes yet which you sent me but I still hope that they will arrive O.K.

Will

A995.023.013 (20)

Sieburg, Germany
Dec. 21st, 1918

My Dear Mother,

It is now some time since I have written a letter, so I think it is nearly time that I was acknowledging receipt of those parcels which I have received from you. The 3 of them arrived a few days ago and so I have been feasting ever since although I mean to keep some of them till Xmas. We are going to have a good time that day for we are preparing a big dinner although food of any kind is very scarce in this country. These people have got a hard time getting enough to keep them living. I put on the shirt which you sent me today, also the slippers both of which can't be beaten. The shirt is a perfect fit and I couldn't get anything better than the slippers for they are just what I wanted. All the "Eats" are great, but the sausage, butter and marmalade were the best treat yet. Thanks very much for them all. I have also just received a box from Grand Valley and one from Pembroke and I had a letter from Lula tonight saying that she had sent me one in which there is a sweater which will come in very useful over here

I have also just received a letter from Ella Dalgano and a photo from the little Pembroke girl who sent me the parcel which I wish you could see for she is a dandy. I sure am going to visit Pembroke when I return.

Oh yes I also heard from Dad tonight and I will write him as soon as possible.

I saw Lawrence Putnam today for the first time over here and he is looking fine.

Did I tell you that we are now away across the Rhine stationed in a city of about 50,000 inhabitants and are having a fine time? The people can't do too much for us for they are so glad of peace.

Well mother Xmas will be over in a few days but I hope to be able to spend next Xmas with you. I think we will be home by early in the summer all goes well.

Your loving son
Will

A995.023.013 (21)

Mont. St. Andre,
Belgium,
31/1/19

16

My Dear Mother,

It seems to me that I owe you a letter although I have forgotten when I wrote you last. I must get busy though for I got a letter from Lula a couple of days ago which made me sit up and take notice. She gave me a real good lecturing for not writing to her and also to you. She said that I was failing my duty which I suppose was true but I wrote both you and she oftener than anybody else anyway. The time that I failed in writing was when we were travelling across Belgium on our way to Germany and at that time we were working mighty hard. While in Germany though we had a great time- the best we have ever had since we enlisted – but it is now all finished as we have just returned to Belgium. We are just amongst a collection of houses out in the hills and are having a mighty bum time. There is no sport of any kind and no place where we buy anything to eat. I expect we will be here for a month too before we leave for France. We had a great time in Germany and I will never forget it but I will tell you all about it when I return, which I hope will be sometime this summer; perhaps about the first of July.

About 2 weeks ago I sent a box containing a German helmet also I sent you a couple of letter containing photos and snaps, which I hope arrive O.K. and which I wish you would keep for me. I have also got another box full of German souvenirs which I expect to send tomorrow please keep them for me.

I hope that you have all recovered from the "Flu" and that you are all enjoying good health again.

Well mother I must now ring off as it is getting late hoping to hear from you soon. I am,
Your son,
Will

A995.023.013 (22)

Mont St. Andre,
Belgium.

Feb. 27th, 1919

My Dear Mother,

This is to let you know that the parcel containing butter, honey and cakes arrived a few days ago and needless to say went good. Thanks very much. I had a letter a few days ago from Jack Thompson and he is getting along fine. I wrote him a week ago and this was the first I had heard from them since before our last big fight last September. Jim was wounded and is now in England will sail for Canada in the course of a few days. Jack didn't tell me any thing about his wound, but I think it was only slightly. Jack is

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camped at Waterloo, or about 40 miles from our camp. I think he will be home before I will, for I figure that our division will be the last to return. I spent 3 days in Brussels last week and had a great time, but it takes a lot of money. It is much faster than any of the Canadian cities, so we enjoyed ourselves immensely. I expect to go on another pass before long – down through France taking snaps for the Battery. I could go now only the weather is not very good. If I get this trip I will have a great number of snaps to send home.

There is no talk of us leaving here so we will not be home before the middle of summer, at least. We are all getting tired waiting, and it is time our government was doing something to get us home. No more votes for Borden, when I return for I believe he is asleep. The Americans who were here only a few months are returning before us, and I am now well gone in my third year away from Canada and am in my fourth in the army.

We are now having weather just like a Canadian April, raining every day and lots of mud.

Well, mother I can't send you much news as it is very scarce so I will ring off for the present, hoping to hear from home soon.

I am your son.
Will

A995.023.013 (23)

Le Havre, France
May 9th, 1919

My Dear Mother,

You won't hear from me very often now from this side of the Atlantic. As I expect to get home during the next month. We left Bomal on Sunday night landing here Monday night. I cant send you any news except that I am feeling fine and that we are having great weather down in this southern port. It is as warm as July and we are doing nothing except just waiting for our boat.

With love to all at home,

Will