

FOR GOD FOR KING
AND FOR COUNTRY



WITH THE CANADIAN
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Hastings Park, 68th C.Y.A.

Vancouver B.C.

Nov. 15, 1917.

Dear Mother & all;

I got everything straightened up in
Ed't that Monday P.M. had supper at
aunt C's and took the train at 10:05 for Van.
here, we were held up for eight hours a few
miles above Princeton by a rock slide, thus
we landed in Van. here at 5:45 P.M. and I
could not find the aerial recruiting office that
night so stopped at Aunt Zella's and found
it next a.m. only to find that I was
about eight hours too late to get in as a
mechanic and to old for pilot, as they had
got a wire from the east to take on no more
mechanics but didn't know any more, and
might open any day again, so I went right
down to the P.C. and registered for Exemption

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2

and on Thursday I met both Jim. & Y. N.
Ritchie on the street and had a long talk
with Y. N. and he told me that his son
told him the artillery were recruiting a few
and that Cliff McWilliams and Hilton Snider
were back here again with it, so next
day I came down and saw them, they told
^{me} when to come around to see the officers and
who to see, so on Saturday I put my name
in for a place on the waiting list but chances
looked slim, I left after both the Aerial and
the Exemption Board but the board refused to
deal with it untill I could get a note from
Mr Jennie, Registrar, as I had made a mistake
in putting the claim throu the P. O. as then it
had to go throu Jennie's office or there would likely
be a mix up. I didn't get the note, in fact did
not try, but made up my mind I'd get a
job here and keep in touch with the aerial corps

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3

On Monday I just tramped around the city
On Tuesday I went to the Coughlan ship yard
and after a time and a lot of waiting etc.
myself and ~~another~~ young fellow got the
boss ~~the~~ we wanted and were told to come
in the morning this was about 1³⁰ Tuesday
but instead of going up to join the Union I took
the car for the park here to see what chances
were in the Artillery again, I only waited
a few minutes when I got into the office
and with only a few words I was accepted
and signed up ~~at~~ three o'clock and had a big
part of my kit by three thirty then started
the marking etc. had supper about 4³⁰ P.M. then
filled up the kit and went up town got to
sunt zella's in time for supper so took a cup of
tea with them, then uncle told me about the
artillery calling for me on the phone in the A.M.
so you see how everything was prepared when

4.

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I handed in. and from the way everything has worked I take it that this is what the Lord was guiding to when I was leaving dear old Pld, and what I heard the day I joined from a fellow that had joined the arsal corps but was discharge like Jimmie Moore, that a lot of the mechanics that failed in their trade course. were drafted into the militia, and this is better than that chance.

I haven't been down town the last two days but here fixing up, but expect to be in on Sat. P.M. till Monday A.M. if I wish to stay.

I saw Alice last Friday evening and again Sunday and she is certainly looking plump & fine, I thought better than I have ever seen here.

I was up to J. M.'s Thursday for supper, they are fine. Have to close as it is lights out time.
Hoping you are all well as I am and all the rest out here.
Your loving son, J. M. McDonald. Over

Monday Nov. 19, 1917.

Well here I am again, I'll try and get this mailed this time, I did not have a stamp last time and have been kept pretty busy.

On Friday we had pretty hard drill and in the evening a concert or sports in which the 68th Battery more than held their own. on Sat. I dressed up in full dress uniform and went to Zell's she was just going out so we both went to the movies which let us out at 6 P.M. then I went to Hastings street to get some things I needed in camp and got back to Zell's at 7.30 ~~to~~ late for supper after I had some we play Parchesa and chess till about twelve,

Sunday; Went to Bapt. church in A.M. & I.S. met Mr & Mrs Hutton & Joy (Mrs Neil) or something like that, also Mrs Babitt, then had dinner at Uncle (Vr) then went out to see Alice & Jack the first time they saw me in uniform, they all thought I looked

DM

Fine, I had tea with them and stayed till about 8.30 P.m. then started for Zell's and got my bit bag, and while I was away W. J. had called as P. Silly died sometime last week and he was taking the body home as he expected to go back tonight I'll not likely see him.

Alice is looking & feeling fine, so are all at Zell's. I don't know about the others as I haven't been out.

Well I guess I'll close as my news supply has run short, Oh! have you noticed my name in the World lately as I met the City Editor at the Ser.

Would you send the Gleaner herald on to me after you finish reading it, or if you don't wish to bother with please have the address changed to me at the park here.

Has Arch gone before the board yet, he is the only one left now so make it plain to them that there is two son abroad in the army

And I think he will get off. please let me know what is doing, it might be well for Candace or you mother to write the board too stating the facts giving our numbers & addresses so that if they wish to make enquiry they can.

I am going to try and get leave to get home for xmas and New ~~year~~^{year}, if I can only get one I'll try for Xmas unless you folk would rather the new year.

So long for now, will try and ~~wright~~ write every week now since I am getting settled.

Your loving son,

J. M. McKeough

no 339793

68 Canadian Field Artillery

Hastings Park,

Vancouver,

B.C.