

On Active Service



**WITH THE BRITISH  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

France

Feb 6 1917

Dear Min

I received your welcome letter a few days ago & as I was in the front line at the time I hadn't much time for writing so left it till we come out. We are all in good health, our greatest trouble is the cold climate we are getting very hard frosts here lately. I was very much surprised when I heard that Archie Mac Millan drew a prize in the ballot I don't think he will take to it too kindly. We are in billets just now but go up near the line

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every day on fatigue. I have been with a barb wiring gang for a few days & being on contract we can get done early & have the rest of the day off. I am writing this in a Y.M.C.A. as you will see by the paper Boy gone it is the best institution of the lot they have places wherever you go about here right up near the line. It is alright when coming out of the trenches to get a nice cup of hot tea all for nothing. We have some great experiences to tell one another every time we come out of the trenches there is some funny sights here

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Donald Fraser was on patrol the other night with three others out in no mans land they had been out for about an hour when they heard a frity give an order to his men & started firing on them & it was fun to see Donald scaling for our parapet. I was on the fire step laughing at him going. He got in without being hit but gave his knee a twist when he stumbled over some barb wire he is alright again now. Ted Hoare seems to have a good job I suppose he will be getting married soon.

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I got a nice cake from Mays & Rose & thinking it was from home & thanked Daisy for it there was no letter with it & love from all at home written in the cake with icing so there is little excuse for me.

"Well Min I think I had better close now hoping you & Bill & the kids are in as good health as I am at present

yours. Fred