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D. Co. ~~1st~~ Regt

British Expeditionary  
Force

Sunday.

My dearest Mum.

I thank you very much indeed for the lovely parcel which arrived quite safely today. Needless to say am very pleased indeed with its contents, and thank you all very much for them. Will write to the others to thank them as soon as I can.

Bert's lovely bar of chocolate was most delicious, and the pine apple too I must thank Sara very much indeed for.

Have fixed the battery in my lamp & it works splendidly. Yes Mum dear although we are exceedingly pleased to receive parcels we look quite as eagerly for letters which give us news of how you are all getting on. Am glad mine are reaching you better now, for I can imagine how you look for them & after the postman has gone Daisy or someone runs up and says "Is there one from Percy" and I guess if there is one all cling round until it is read.

Glad you had a nice little outing in London with Aunt Kate & Billy, am so pleased to know that you are better & mind, you must keep so now.

Dear Mum, it is typical of your kindly thought to ask about the friendless soldiers, and if I can find out a deserving lad will certainly let you know his name as far as I have found so far though. Our Regiment seems composed of lads with good homes.

We are still waiting orders. They took us for a walk this morning all over ploughed & muddy land. and got back in time to go to the church at 11.30. Where the Brigade Chaplain took the service & gave a short address. The interior of this church is magnificent. of course, it is a Roman Catholic Church. But ours was a Protestant service. The pictures pictures windows & splendid carving are magnificent.

Today has been almost like a spring day, quite cheers us up, after the terrible weather we have had recently.

Well. Mum dear, it is difficult to find news here to write you about for I may not tell you anything up to date but perhaps to you all the main thing is, that I am still quite happy, fit & well. And I really believe that when I get home again & want to go for a walk I shall tie a 56 lb weight on my back & take a short stroll to Buntingford & walk round Bishop Stortford way back. and that would be easier than our marches are here for the ~~the~~<sup>main</sup> roads are composed of granite setts which have all been rendered uneven by the heavy transport traffic and another thing that makes our feet sore is keeping to the right of the road for the incline is just the opposite to that to which we were trained. But have given my feet as much attention as is possible in the circumstances & they have stood me well. Although my right toe is still numb from the frost bite contracted in the trenches.

As so many of our officers have left us we are working in double companies now. Major Croft is in command with Capt Longmore of 6 & 9 Co's. and we shall continue to work together now so I'm nearer the Ware lads.

Have been wondering about you all at home today & how you have all been getting on. I do long for the time when we shall all sit together again and all this strife ended.

Am still wondering what my Christmas will be. But am going to do my best to make it be as happy as circumstances will permit. And my thoughts will be all of the dear ones at home.

Now must say Good night dear Mamma & May God bless you one & all.

With my very best love to you from your  
Loving son.

Percy.

P.S. Thanks very much for the gloves & the Black currant Juice. Am keeping them in case of emergency. Have found my knowledge of french exceedingly useful just lately & incidentally improved it.

"God be with you till we meet again."