

Bramblethill Camp  
Christmas 1914.

my dear Mrs. Matherlin

I am afraid I missed a day wrong yesterday. We were so busy with a long route march drill & night operations that I had no time. Your parcel arrived yesterday. The tinned fruit, dairy, & eggs etc are most acceptable. I expect the other parcel you mention will arrive to-day. Did you send it by rail?

The mail has just come in. Many thanks to you and Walter for your letters, and to Mamma for the poem.

This is a queer time. I started it at 6.30 this morning by getting up to light the fire. It is a lovely gold frosty day. We get here & then start to breakfast to-day but cannot. There are no provisions, so we are devoting the day to cleaning up. I expect to go to Sturminster this afternoon. I am going to the station before lunch to see about that parcel. I will try and see about that present for Mamma M., but that present letter beats me. Who is it to be written to?

I don't think that I have made any mistake about Col. Rowley's offer. The only difficulty has been getting to see him which I hope to do this Sunday. I don't see what advice he could give me. If you would be more definite I would know better what to do. He wouldn't know what my mind was & he is supposed to. Personally I think I would be better to stay here and I intend to do so at present. In any case it would be difficult to get away. Of course I did write and thank <sup>him</sup> at once.

I don't know that there much more news and I  
don't think I feel inclined to moralise about Xmas  
I hope that you have had a decent time. I am  
waiting for your instructions regarding the getting of  
a cent of whisky. Of course in Peebles I would  
was ordinary conditions of I should be come home  
in the present work. In any case the sleeping  
would be acceptable. also a small P.O. as I want  
to send a belated Xmas present to Alice & John

I am having an uneasy struggle keeping free  
from venereal. I have had more in ten minutes  
of disinfestation about three bottles last week!  
I will make up a parcel of woolly today.

I am going home by Edinburgh. I hope to  
get there in time to catch the 8.30 train to  
Peebles. if not I will have to stay in Edinburgh.  
I will write more definitely later.

I hope you are all well and strong

With love

Your very affectionate son

Alastair.