

On Active Service



**WITH THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

Address Reply to: No 441507 July 1st 1916
Pte J Atcherison. No 4 Coy. 14th Ban. Btch
3rd Brigade. 1st Ban. Division
The Front. France

My dear wife

We have arrived back at the rest camp, after another spell of the trenches, so that I am alright for a few days again. There were quite a few, old 53rd men killed and wounded this time, but our company was very fortunate as we had very few casualties. I have never had a letter from anywhere since coming to France, and am yearning very much on one, especially from you. I thought I would not have much time to think, when on active service, but there are hours and hours in the trenches, when we have nothing to do, but lie in our dug-outs, and my thoughts are of home all the time. I hope you are bearing up well, under our bereavements, and that the

of a awful thing is gone, I can hardly believe yet, that they are gone from us forever, naturally of course I grieve most for Nettie, as she was older, but I am very sorry also for the loss of our wee son. You will be wondering how I like it at the front, well I think, the less said about it the better, as I expected, it is no picnic, and the sooner it is over, the better I will be pleased, it is sad coming back to the rest camp and hearing about fellows we knew, being killed. However we will have to go through with it now, and if we are suffering, so are our enemies. I find my deafness, a great handicap at the front, as they speak low there, and I cant hear the orders at all some times, especially after a sharp bombardment, I am almost totally deaf for a long time. I dont know what Pat. J. Green is in now, but he will have been in the trenches once or twice by this time. The Regt. that Bill is in, was to arrive here this morning from the front line, so I will possibly see him tonight. How are you all keeping, I hope the little

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ones have got over their trouble, and that things are going better with you now. I expect to get quite a lot of letters from you soon, as I suppose they are being held up at the Base until they can trace me. Tell the children that I am unable to send their dollar now, as we only get one ^{20 cents} franc a day here, the rest is held back. We get tobacco and matches rations out though also cigarettes and as we can only spend money while at camp it is enough. I ~~do~~ wrote to mother last time I was back, and will write to Tonia & Bella this time, I will close now, hoping this war will soon be over, and that I will soon be back in Saskatoon beside you. I remain
Your ever loving husband
Jennie