

wide and simply a hole. The roof is well covered with corrugated iron sheets, on top of which sandbags are piled, then dirt, and the whole supported by four stout timbers, none squared except the front one. The space I have inside is about four feet by seven feet and mostly taken up by a six feet by two feet bed. I am in charge of a 'Keep' for the support of the front line trenches and am well off indeed, the only danger being from shrapnel, 'Jack Johnsons' and stray bullets. They shell our immediate surroundings frequently, and while one bombardment was going on in response to an awakening our guns gave the Gerboys, I wrote a couple of letters indoors the while listening to the big fellows whistling and half wheezing and shrieking as they passed. It was most uncomfortable at times too, as one could not help wondering where, say, that one just this moment which is hovering hesitatingly, it would seem just overhead, would land. The very big ones come up something like steam engines and make an awful row when they crash to earth scattering steel, mud and twigs in every direction. The first day I spent in the front line I saw a tree cut as clean as one could wish by a small shrapnel shell. Most of the men seem to like trench life better than the huts or dugouts in rear, from which they have to come down here as fatigue parties often when they would sooner rest up.

"What amazes me now is how easily we get used to it all. My desire now is to get out over a front line parapet and crawl along between the lines in search of annoying snipers. Others have done it and are doing it every night and meeting with success occasionally, when there is much rejoicing. It is a far safer operation too than you can imagine owing to the well known undulations of ground that are always likely to occur between lines 35 to 300 yards apart."

The following is a letter from LIEUT. W. B. FORSTER, at one time a member of the First Street West, Calgary, branch, now attached to the 31st Battalion :

"Very many thanks for your welcome letter, which I received safely; you know my address and can answer when opportunity offers; paper being scarce I have to make the best of what is available, as you see we are now in the midst of it.

"We arrived safely in France after a good voyage across the channel: the marching however on this side was very heavy, as all the roads are cobbled, which tires a man very much, especially when he carries a big pack. Our boys, however, stood it fine and have made quite a name for themselves already by their staying powers.

"We journeyed up in easy stages to the firing line as the marching was so hard. However, out here we take everything as it arrives, the system is marvellous, everything seems to go like clock-work, we receive our mail regularly no matter where we may be, and letters we write are always taken away promptly to be posted. There is never any delay with our rations no matter what may happen. The Government gives a weekly issue of cigarettes and tobacco, which is highly appreciated. The incoming mail is always the event of the day, the men crowding around for their message from home. It is also pathetic to see those who are not lucky turning away sometimes with