

does not include the smaller Cemeteries taken in hand by our own direct labour. This should be the best year in the history of the Commission, and when we are through we shall begin to see daylight through the trees and perhaps get some idea when we can finish. The big monument at Menin Gate to the missing will be gone on with this summer. This takes the form of an enormous triumphal arch. It really will be more like a tunnel than an arch, inscribed on the inside walls, and also on the outside walls on galleries to be built on the outside of the arch, will be the names of the missing in the Salient. The opening of this memorial will probably take the form of a very fine ceremony, and you, as one of the Generals commanding, should be here to take part in it. No one less than the King or the Prince of Wales should do it. I think the British Lion will surmount one side of the arch and the Belgian Lion the other, and it is going to be a tremendous bit of work. We shall have a good deal to do with the supervising of the construction although the money comes out of other funds than ours - quite where I do not know.

The South Africans are building a very fine memorial in Delville Wood, having bought the whole wood, and they are going to make it into a park. The avenue from their memorial through the middle of the wood leads right to our Delville Wood Cemetery, and the two will be built simultaneously and will harmonise.

Roy, who used to be my man in the Ypres area, has quit and gone back to Canada, and a new man called St. Vincent is on the way out to replace him. I wish they would send me a good Westerner instead of our Quebec friends, but Quebec seems to be the white-headed boy just now.

Your friend Chanter I do not hear much about any more. I understand he has fallen on evil times, but he was asking for it.

Our winter has been wonderfully mild but very wet and troublesome. Still, we have been able to build throughout the winter more than 30 Cemeteries in the neighbourhood of Floegsteert, including all the ones in the wood.

Thank you for your good wishes and also for Lady Currie's, which we heartily reciprocate.

With very kindest regards, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Encl.

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