

James John Cristian Davidson

Lt. Col 1/5 Seaforth's Brigade Commander one of over 300 letters to his wife Margret Davidson over 200 are transcribed

Ref: P566/76/194

Page 1

24th October 1915

My own dearest,

A thousand thanks for your 2 parcels received last night – I got them when I came in after the mails had gone.

My feathers are beautiful and will wear them when we go into rest billets in 6 days hence – and then Donnie can wear his.

Thanks for the scones dearest they are fine and a great treat to all of us. Capt. Orr is very fond of them. Thanks also for pickles, olives & Bovril. Donnie & I are in the same dug out and we got a fireplace put in it yesterday – and we are planning to mug of Bovril before we go to bed some cold night. The fire last night has dried up the damp in our dug out a lot but you can understand the damp in a square hole dug in the ground about 9 feet deep and just the earth or rather chalk & earth for walls and logs of trees layed across for a roof and about 4 feet of earth or chalk on top of that.

This is an extraordinary existence living like moles and the door of course opens into a trench equally as deep so we never see the country while in the trenches unless you get up on the top and that is not safe as bullets are continually whizzing passed, and one would get fired as soon as he

Page 2

Showed himself so it is safer to keep down. Well darling I am sitting over our fire writing this on my knee and Donnie is lying on his bed fast asleep and of course I fell asleep sitting on a wooden stool with my back against the wall and have just wakened again. I was round all the trenches this forenoon from 9.30 till 1.30 & had lunch just before I sat down over our fire to write – and as usual have had a snooze as I used to have at home. We mess in another dug out a wee bit away. No one has any business into my dug out except Donnie who shares it with me so we have a certain amount of peace when there is peace to be had. It came on heavy rain just as I came in for lunch and the Huns have been very quiet since the rain came but were pretty lively in the morning & forenoon. I see it is fair again now and will go and have a look round and see how the trenches are after the rain. One has to keep a good eye over things in case of anything happening. With all my love dearest and many thanks for the good things.

Ever your loving husband,
Jas Davidson.

Page 3

I forgot to thank you for all the news in your last nights letter and the enclosure and glad to hear of your doings love. Sorry to hear Donald has got a growth on his side. I hope it is not a cancerous one. Yes, Davie should take in the calving Heifers at once. The frosty mornings are very dangerous they might through calf after frosty grass.

We had very hard frost here yesterday morning and as cold as [...]. I had on my great coat going round the trenches it was so cold and did not feel it too much.

Glad to hear Jock is home and well. You may see him about what I wrote you a few days ago and if you see Uncle Ack you might speak to him about it if you think and just tell him how we stand. If I were at home it would be different but no such luck and am sorry I cannot get to help you but will be satisfied with your decision and your suggestions too dearest & expect you will have had my letter before you will have written the next one I get from you.

Must be off dear,

Goodnight