

Balmur Lawn  
Brokenhurst  
23/6/1918

Dear Brother,

During this last fortnight I have had several letters from you, and now I am going to answer same as well as I can.

Writing now is not so easy as it used to be otherwise I would not have been so long in answering yours. I am pleased to hear that your grass and oats, thrashing well, and that your grass is lasting or was lasting well as it was autumn then and will be midwinter now. Yes, you will be busy dear brother but stick where you are is my advice at least as long as possible. This war will last a while yet I am afraid and if it doesn't we've practically lost. It's not our armies that's at fault nor are the Germans such wonders. It's the rotters at the Head of affairs.

Now, I hope you folks over there are not taking my misfortune too bad. I am quite happy now and never was so fat in my life. I can do everything for myself and find my way round fine. I make my own bed and that's something in a hospital. I shave, clean my own gear just the same. I went to a place on my own the other day. If I were home I would go anywhere and ride to different places. I have never seen this place so it makes it harder. Of course its hard and it's me that knows it, but after I've been through a 6 or 9 month course at St Dunstans, I will be independent. I can read Braille a little already and will take up poultry and gardening for outdoor work. Of course there's quite a lot I could and will yet do on the farm but I want to be able to do for myself. If you want further particulars about St. Dunstans, I sent some books home and you can get them.

I got Pearson's photo but will have to send it up to Mrs McLean. When I heard who it was it fairly broke me up, the first time I have let my feelings overcome but couldn't help it. God grant that neither his dad or he will ever have to come through these dark hours. I suppose you will read this to Cathie as I have quite a lot of writing to do. I do hope Mother and Father keep up

Now I must tell you that I was only 5 hours in the trenches when a shell burst in my face and it has been dark ever since. My left eye was smashed to pieces and a bone out of my mates head got into my right. His head was blown off. I walked out of the line and told Roy to cable slightly wounded but I was worse than I thought. My nose has a slight scar but otherwise I have no marks. I was wild at being hit as I was with Lieut. Roy and promotion was sure if I did well. I lay in his dugout and had a long yarn. He has got his MC now and deserves it. He's scared of nothing. Well God's ways are not ours so we must be content. Poor Albert felt he was going down and do you know that as I came out of my dugout I said well I wonder where I will be in a while, but said thy Will be done as I offered up hurried prayer. 5 minutes later I was hit. Now don't worry over me as there is ?still a lot of good times left yet. I have written four letters to Alex but have had no reply but mail from here to Egypt is a bit mixed. Charley is still in bed and will be for a while. He will get NZ. He has lost his third ? ----- as he is on temp ? ----

I am glad mother is well. Now I will close.  
My love to all  
Andrew