

## Remembrance

(Belgian Field Hospital,  
c/o Commander Rawson R.O.  
Burlington Hotel  
Dover.

3. 11. 14.

My dear Uncle Dick,

I expect you are all rather wondering what I am doing! Well we came out here a fortnight ago yesterday & since then have had a very varied & busy time, except for the last two or three days. During the first week the wounded poured in & we had them all over the floors as well as crowded beds. They were moved on the following day whether serious or not to make room for fresh ones (except the very critical cases). The wounds have been very much more severe than any which we saw in Antwerp & we have had to do 24 amputation of limbs - they were every one so badly injured that it was impossible even to expect to save them otherwise.

After our first week here the Authorities had a scare & removed all our patients & ordered us to shut up shop & clear off to Poperinghe about 20 miles S.W. of here - you don't know what a job it is moving camp! (Read the "Daily Chronicle" of November 2<sup>nd</sup>). After we had only been two nights at Poperinghe we were ordered back here again as the situation was not critical, so back we came.

Our Hospital has broken off from its committee at home & is now entirely under orders of the Belgian War Minister & it is designated as the Belgian Field Hospital (the postal address is as above). We have joined hands

with an English Motor Ambulance party under a Dr Munro & they feed us with patients going out into the shell firing range often to get them. I have only been able to go once - & then we were about 150 yards from a station which was shelled pretty badly... This town has not been bombarded except for one afternoon when a stray German canon (separated from its battery) made it rather exciting - It was captured later I believe I was in Ypres one afternoon last Sunday & I was much distressed to hear of terrible losses in <sup>Captain Tullis</sup> Jack's regiment. It was there but I could not go to it & try & find him - I don't know now whether he is alright or not but I have not seen his name in the papers (which we get almost daily from Dunkirk) but I do hope he is, I should have loved to have seen him & I always hope to meet him somewhere. I wonder if Jack is coming over here. Let me know when you write. I wrote a 3 sheet letter to Father like this a few days ago. Two of our party are going over to England tomorrow (rather to day as it is 2 AM) so I am giving this to him to post over there. I hope you are all very fit. I wonder if Glen is at home now or what he is doing. The Belgian Queen comes round our Hospital (it is a Priest's College & we have 3 big wards 60 odd beds) to each individual patient family often & we have to tell her personally about our own patients as she always wants to know exactly what has happened to them. She is very quiet & obviously is deeply moved by the whole of the war. She is rather like Aunt Ada to look at! I don't know how long we will remain in this place but I expect & hope we will move on as then that will mean that the position is better. Well I must stop now. Adieu & ever so much love to you all & to those at Sutton. Please pass this letter round  
Ever your affectionate Nephew.  
Charles F. Pedley.

Letter written on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1914, from Charles F Pedley to his uncle

Many thanks to Andy Pedley for researching his family archives for Magna