

St. Georges School
Victoria B.C.
Jan 31, 1919

Dearest Matt,

I've not written you since the great event of Gilling's home-coming which was just a week ago.

He crossed on the "Olympic" and got home an hour before the "Empress of Asia" which came via Panama with 1500 troops. We all turned out in force to both events. Gilling looks fine and it is almost unbelievable to feel he's through with the war. He and Billie Dakin both went shopping this morning and had such a good time getting their civilian "trousseau." Tonight there is a little party at the house and when my evening duties here are over I'll be there with bells.

Beth and George arrived on Saturday and we had to give George on arrival the sad news that his father had died that morning. It was a heart attack and quite sudden as he was at the wedding on Wednesday. George left Beth with us and went back home with Mr. and Mrs. Reg Grubb to attend the funeral and make arrangements for the girls who will be left desolate. It's a sad honeymoon for Beth and George but I'm sure the years to come will be very happy.

Gilling, mother and I went to see Mrs. Gonnason this week. She has recovered from the shock of Emma's death and loves to talk about her, and it's so pathetic how they try to do the things Emma liked to do and bear up bravely.

Harry Robinson was at Clay's last night, and is absolutely crazy. I think it's mostly jumpy nerves or the effect of strain but he has to be doing something all the time. He recited reams of cracked poetry from, "Alice Through the Looking Glass," to me; and played the delightful fool all evening. I heard that he stood on his head in the Empress on a bet last week.

This is a funny yarn he told. He was in "civies" watching the "Empress of Asia" coming in. A woman near him was talking and by and by it dawned upon him she was addressing him. The gist of her remarks was I wonder you do not feel ashamed to be here watching these men who are returning after have [*sic*] served they their country while slackers like you have been living in luxury, etc. So at last Harry remarked "But, you know Madam I have been engaged on work of national importance." She snorted and asked what he had been doing. "Oh," said he, "I've been painting spots on rocking horses." (See Bairnsfather)

At present I'm conducting evening "prep" and at 9:45 will be free for the rest of the day. I like it very much here and most of the boarders are such nice girls it is quite pleasant when on duty. I'm on duty this week end, which duty comes once a month. It consists of various things including church parade, and early communion service with the seniors.

According to reports you should soon be in England and ready for the last lap home. Blayney may be popping in any moment as he seemed ready to leave according to his last letter.

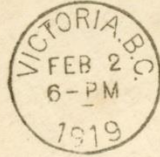
Uncle Harry had a painful time all last week with an attack of muscular rheumatism but is around again now.

Bob Travis came home with Gilling and is looking very well indeed. He is over at our house tonight so I shall see him later.

Connie's "flu" nursing is over as there are so few cases no more V.A.D. help is needed at the isolation She had quite a hard time for a while as there were deaths almost every day and the cases are not pleasant to nurse.

Must close as "prep" is over. Very much love from

Gertrude



Capt. M. H. Scott,

33rd Battery, C. F. A.,

B. E. F.,

Belgium.

3rd Div.

St. Georges School,
Victoria B.C.,

Jan. 31, 1919

Dearest Matt,

I've not written you since the great event of Gilling's home-coming which was just a week ago.

He crossed on the "Olympic" and got home an hour before the "Empress of Asia" which came via Panama with 1500 troops. We all turned out in force to both events. Gilling looks fine and it is almost unbelievable to feel he's through with the war. He and Billie Dakin both went shopping this morning and

had such a good time getting their civilian "trousseau": Tonight there is a little party at the house and when my evening duties here are over I'll be there with bells.

Beth and George arrived on Saturday and we had to give George on arrival the sad news that his father had died that morning. It was a heart attack and quite sudden as he was at the wedding on Wednesday. George left Beth with us and went back home with Mr. & Mrs. Reg Grubb to attend the funeral and make arrangements for the girls

who will be left desolate. It's a sad honeymoon for Beth and George but I'm sure the years to come will be very happy.

Gilling mother and I went to see Mrs. Gonnason this week. She has recovered from the shock of Emma's death and loves to talk about her, and it's so pathetic how they try to do the things Emma liked to do and bear up bravely.

Harry Robinson was at Clay's last night, and is absolutely crazy. I think it's mostly jumpy nerves or the effect of strain but he has to be doing something

all the time. He recited reams of cracked poetry from, "Alix through the Looking Glass," to me; and played the delightful fool all evening. I heard that he stood on his head in the Empress on a bet last week.

This is a funny yarn he told. He was in "civies" watching the "Empress of Asia" coming in. A woman near him was talking and by and by it dawned upon him she was addressing him.

The gist of her remarks was I wonder you do not feel ashamed to be here watching these men who are returning after have served their country while

living in luxury, etc. so at last Harry remarked "But, you know madam I have been engaged on work of national importance." she snorted and asked what he had been doing. "Oh," said he, "I've been painting spots on rocking-horses." (See Bairnsfather)

At present I'm conducting evening "prep" and at 9:45 will be free for the rest of the day. I like it very much here and most of the boarders are such nice girls it is quite pleasant when on duty. I'm on duty this week end, which duty comes once a month. It consists of various things including church

parade, and early communion service with the seniors.

According to reports you should soon be in England and ready for the last lap home. Blayne may be popping in any moment as he seemed ready to leave according to his last letter.

Uncle Harry had a painful time all last week with an attack of muscular rheumatism but is around again now.

Bob Travis came home with Gilling and is looking very well indeed. He is over at our house tonight so

I shall see him later.

Connie "flu" nursing is over as there are so few cases no more V.A.D. help is needed at the Isolation. She had quite a hard time for a while as there were deaths almost every day and the cases are not pleasant to nurse.

Must close now as "prep" is over. Very much love from
Gertrude