

1354 Craigdarrock  
Victoria B.C.  
Jan 19, 1919

Dearest Matt,

Many happy returns of your birthday. Were you able to celebrate it at all. Do you know that heaps of your mail has been addressed 31<sup>st</sup> Battery, all your Christmas truck, and don't think we have forgotten you entirely. You may be getting it in spite of the mistake.

We all rather excited at present expecting Kay, and if the gates are very benevolent, Blayne too, on the Empress of Asia, which is due in about five days. Kay has a good chance of being on board, but as no passenger list has been published there's a sort of gamble about it.

Willie Dakin got home the day before New Year's. He was here for a visit and we all liked him so much. Mr. and Mrs. Dakin have moved to a new house in the village so when I left the island were very busy getting settled before Willie got home.

George left here on Wednesday for San Jose. The wedding is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and he and Beth will be back here next Saturday and will spend the weekend here before going to the metropolis of James Is. George has been painting his house and as busy as a bee getting it put in order. He has a cottage in the village, one of the last ones build, and in a very pretty location.

You will be very sorry to hear of the death of Emma Gonnason. She died of flu pneumonia last Sunday, after a hard week of suffering. It is a terrible shock for her family as she was such a dear girl, always so helpful and kind and unselfish. We went to the funeral on Tuesday and it was so hard to see her carried away. It didn't matter to her that the wind was blowing hard and the cold sea sullenly smashing over the rocks, but the gap in her family is not easily filled. Perhaps you know that she and Blayne were very good friends. When she was ill she had his picture with her constantly and while delirious tried to give him some violets to hold. Dorothy Vincent died from the same cause last week. It is so disheartening to have this epidemic when we were hoping to see things bright again after the war.

Connie has a regular job nursing at the Isolation Hospital which is for flu cases only. She works from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. doing regular nurses' work under a trained nurse and the city pays her \$15 a week. She certainly earns it as it is unpleasant work and every day or so there is a death out there.

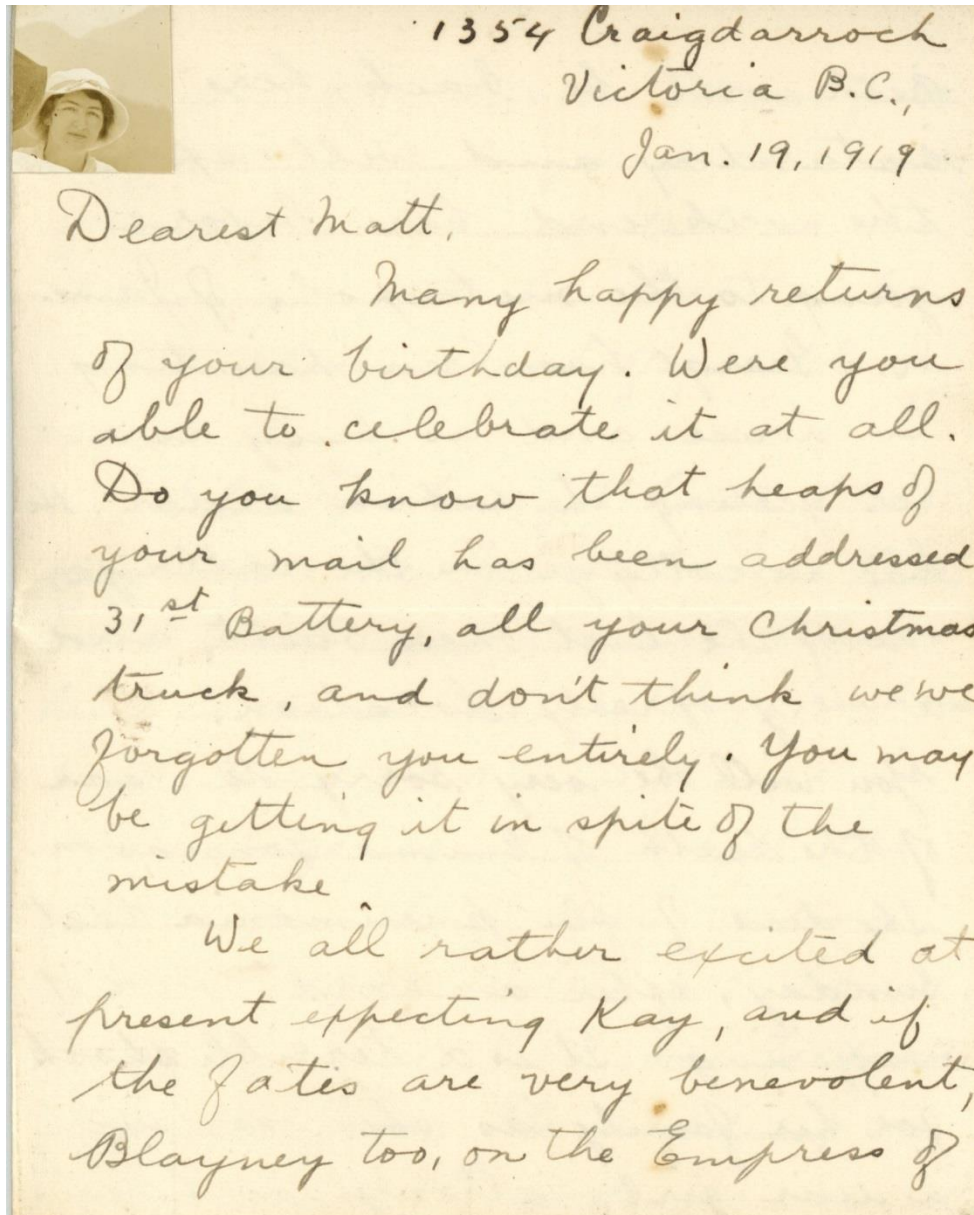
I'm teaching at St. George's school this term. For the first week I boarded there, and had the diverting job of putting the Juniors to bed as well as teaching. This last week flu began to spread among the boarders so they've been quarantined. It is only in a mild form so the matron manages the hospital part and I've been asked to live at home and teach the day girls only. This arrangement is only for a week or so, and then we hope things will be normal. I like it very much there and it's quite heavenly having only one class at a time to manage instead of half a dozen classes at once.

Regina Verrinder and I room together there, but she was among the fluites last week so was hurried off to the sick room. She is quite better now and has no after effects but is still quarantined.

The Canadian Siberian Expedition left here about Christmas time in two drafts and have just arrived in Siberia, and I suppose will soon be on the trail off the Bolshevik. Major (Dr.) Verrinder is there in the Dental Corps and at last has his wish to be on active service.

Harry Robinson is home after spending some days back East visiting relatives on the way out. He rang up and said he would come to see us, but is yet to appear. Tom Morris is back at law trying to make up for what he called "lost time." We are all keeping well, and perhaps we can tell you what Gilling looks like next letter. I'm sending you a birthday box and hope the contents will be all useful.

Much love from  
Gertrude



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