

CUS417/55.64

[A. Taylor to Lady Osler]

[B.E.F., France] October 25th, 1915.

To Lady Osler,
My Lady,

Thank you very much for the parcel which arrived today. It is very kind of you to keep me so well supplied in tobacco. The jersey will be very handy as it takes up very little room in my pack. Judging from the temperature today, we shall want all the clothes we can possibly wear! It is a dreary wet day and we have just come back from an inspection by the King & the French President. Had it been a fine day, it would have been a very gay scene, with the many different coloured uniforms.

We are back at the village resting just now, and go back into the trenches in a few days time. We have a very good time back here. There is a barn rigged up as a library, with all the most recent periodicals & newspapers. We generally have a concert and one or two footer matches each time we come back for a rest. We are out trench digging most days, but find time for a game at Bridge or a quiet read most nights.

We had a rather rough time up in the trenches the last time. The Germans shelled our front line with some very heavy shells & "Minewerfers". We had one or two narrow escapes, but managed to come up smiling as usual. The "Minewerfers" are huge things, something like an oil drum, filled with high explosive. You can actually see them coming through the air. They make a peculiar droning noise, and one gets flat down in the bottom of the trench and hopes for the best. One burst in the next traverse to us, when we were going along the communication trench, and I quite expected the trench to fall in on top of us. We were hard at work all night repairing the parapet and barbed wire, which were knocked about pretty badly.

[The chaffin who has been mentioned in the letter]
I am sorry to hear Benning has cracked up. I am afraid a good many will be down with pneumonia this winter! I hear from William occasionally and he seems very keen on coming out here. So were we, but I don't think any of us would grouse at the monotony of Writtle or any other village in England!

I am glad to say that Mother keeps very well, although she worries rather because I have not been home on leave yet.

The leave goes on slowly but surely, so I hope to be home for a few days, if it is not till 1916!!

I did not find a scarf in the parcel, but a pair of mitts instead.

Yours Very Respectfully

A. Taylor.