

K coy Bethulie Orange River Colony  
South Africa  
Dec 31st 1900

I received too of your letters yesterday. They ware the first I had since six months. That is four I had from you since coming to the country . Well I was glad to see that you are all well

Now the last time I wrote you was in Jagersfontein. we ware for three months there , keeping the town, and the last of it was that we had to leave it and we took all the people both black and white with us. It was a sad sight to see the town people leve everything they had. In fact we burnt everything except a few things that they could take with them.

It was one of the best towns, in fact it was the best town in the free state. It had a splendid Diamond mine and they say if the Boers will destroy it that it will take half a million of money to put it in working order again.

I was one of six men on guard in the senter of the town for 3 weeks over 30 Boer prisoners, or undesirables as they call them. So I was on sentry taking in the Christmas and strange to say who should come up to me but a Helmsdale man with a bottle of whisky to wish me a happy Christmas. He was for 19 years in the country. He is Sutherland to name.

Well we took four days to reach Edinburg, it was [?] sight to see us. We took all the people out of every house we came to. Cattle and horses, sheep by the tousands. You never saw the like. They ware miles of cattle and horses so we left them all at Edinburg. We stoped one night thare.

Next morning we got orders to leve by the next train. So we started about 12o'clock at night and then we heard we ware for Bethulie , so we reached here at 7o'clock and I here that we are to join a flying colium [column] so I don't know whare or how long we will be here.

However this is the last day of the year and tomorrow will be the new year and it will be a very dry one by all aperances. However I am quite well and happy. Perhaps we will make up for it some day when we will get back to bonny Scotland.

Now I will close , wishing one and all of you a very happy new year . With love to you all from

Alick.

2nd Seaforth Highlanders  
Field Force  
South Africa