

2921971 PRIVATE JOHN PATRICK CAIRNEY

NO 1 INDEPENDENT COMPANY

THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS

% CAMP RECEPTION STATION

SUMBURGH LERWICK

SHETLAND ISLANDS

TUESDAY. 31ST AUGUST 1943

MY DEAR BESSIE.

I am writing in answer to your very kind and welcome letter dated 24th which I received yesterday evening.

Bessie I am sincerely pleased to learn that you and all the staff are safe and well.

You will be sorry to know that I am out of action still as you will observe by my address but please do not become alarmed as I am in good hands receiving very efficient and very reputable attention. Every attention and consideration is being favoured on me.

The ultimate cause of my complaint arises from the result of an accident which I had some time ago my feverish lapse has passed but now I am placed strictly on my back believe me it is not a pleasant position I find it quite awkward to write being so placed!

Bessie I am sorry that at the moment I cannot convey your message to Mr Mac he left last week and shall not be back for another month I shall however give him all the news etc on his return.

You enquired as to my office work yes I gave it up on my own accord when I arrived here I had the chance to continue with my work but did not accept my reasons were because I did not agree with the staff and it entailed my separation from Lieut Mac, I am quite content-

being at full duties & am more out-
 of doors which in itself means that
 it shall be far healthier than I
 could be indoors although I really
 have not had the chance to derive
 such benefits seeing that I have
 landed in hospital.

Glad to learn that you were
 home. Your mother no doubt was
 pleased to have you as your help
 to your brother would be very welcome
 in this busy and full time task
 with the harvest.

Your visits to home and the
 chance of doing some outdoor work
 must be welcomed by you after
 working so long in the Bo
 etc. Most of the week you will
 I am sure feel glad and quite
 refreshed on your return from home
 to the Hotel.

I am pleased to learn that you are having good weather & do hope that you have the good fortune to have such weather for quite some time yet it shall enable you all to gather in the harvest and let you have the chance to enjoy your off duty period in pleasantness.

Bessie & I still have not heard from Dusty & still live in hope. how I would welcome a good laugh from him right this moment just as he carried on down in the kitchen here trusting we all shall have the honour sometime again in the near future as once & contact Dusty & I will arrange that him and I shall visit you all down in Bonas we could arrange our leave periods for the same time which

would enable Dushy and I to have
a day down in Bonar in the
Caledonian.

Your letter informs me that you
are all busy at the moment in the
Hotel you have quite a number still
with you yet I thought that the
flow of visitors would have slackened
by now but presumably I am
quite wrong.

My dear Bessie according to
the tone of your letter it appears
that I have hurt and offended
you in all my remarks about
the Canadians please to forgive
me I am sincerely sorry all
I ever said was all in a joke
please understand I never intended
to hurt you no I respect you
very much and know you are
distant towards the Canadians.

Bessie it seems that winter shall be well in when my turn for leave comes around I shall certainly welcome the day when I shall be able to proceed home it shall be a change long awaited on and one that I will be fully appreciated.

What do you think of the present day War news all seems very encouraging and would lead us to think that all will soon come to an end victory and peace our rightful objective seems not too far off. God grant that soon it shall come to pass so that those who have friends at home can return to participate in the happiness and joy that peace and victory shall surely bring we sure deserve such after our bitter and determined fight.

Now that time for mail despatch is drawing near and having no time left to write more I shall now conclude with asking you to kindly convey my sincere regards to all the Staff and trusting to hear from you soon in answer I shall look forward to your welcome letters as they cheer and comfort me with your friendship and kindness
 Goodnight - and God Bless and keep you ever safe in His DIVINE CARE

With sincere and kind regards

Yours Very Sincerely
 J. Cairney