

Hackwood House,

Feb. 17, 1941 Nursing Sister

Freda Bossy

My Dear Dr. Penfield:

No excuses are going to be offered for not writing you before after your very prompt reply to my note of last autumn, because there is no excuse for negligence and carelessness and I am guilty of both but I will try to redeem myself inasmuch as I promise I won't let it happen again.

We have just returned from seeing Deanna Durbin in *Just Love*. It is very handy to be able to see movies in your own basement. I'm being most disrespectful in calling it a basement. I should say projection room. It's a cozy little spot but the benches are a bit hard to sit on and your back gets a bit weary on its own for such a long set. In spite of the discomforts, we are most grateful to have them. When Lord & Lady Camrose honour us with a visit, they are given real chairs to sit on. That's the advantage of owning the place and having a tittle too. I noticed Col. Russell sneaking a chair in for himself to-night, so he could really enjoy himself.

It's almost spring over here now and we have been picking bunches of snowdrops and the odd crocus out on the grounds. Last week the weather was so balmy, it was hard to realize that it is still February. This place should be perfectly beautiful in another month or so as there are so many flowering shrubs about. Major Childe and Capt. Stewart will have to get busy with their colour films and send you all some pictures.

The surgical end of this unit is at last picking up. Col. Bone has been extremely busy. There seems to have been a rise in motor cycle accidents or else the boys are all landing on their heads. The last few cases have all been fractures of the facial or frontal bones. Rather nasty ones too but they are all coming on very nicely. We are all so glad to have real surgical cases to look after and see them improve day by day.

Both Col. Russell & Col. Bone have been ill with colds or flu. Col. Russell was quite sick and gave us a few worrying days but is fine again. Col. Bone was in bed for one day

only and got up the next day, operated all day and all night. We told him he was taking a chance as I had been prodding him but he does not seem to be any the worse for it.

Mr. & Mrs. Massey paid us a visit the other day and from accounts from Hdq. they were very favourably impressed with our set-up here. I hope the impression went deep enough to hurry the building of the huts which we are beginning to need very badly. They were charming to us all and really seemed sorry when the time for departure came. Capt. Stewart took some excellent pictures which no doubt he will be forwarding to Mrs. Stewart or to some one at the M. N. I.

Miss Swartz and I are on night duty at the present time. As we still have 8-hour duty we only go on at 11 o'clock, which makes a very short night. As we get busier we will be going back on 12 hour duty. I'm sure.

The new O.R. is in full swing now and must be a treat to work in after the makeshift place that had been used. We have changed that room into a small surgical

ward for the sickest patients as it is near the desk, where we can keep both eyes on them. I wish we had more good beds. The army issue is pretty awful for sick pts and 12 surgical beds are most inadequate when the Canadian Army seem to favour a motor-cycle to get smashed up with.

Please tell Mrs. Penfield her candy was delicious and we all enjoyed it so much. I will write her in the very near future and thank her for all her trouble in making so many boxes for us all. You were all so kind and generous and certainly helped to make our first Overseas Christmas a very happy one.

Eleven o'clock is coming close so I must close. Please do not feel that you have to answer this as I know how very busy you are.

Please give my regards to all my friends at the M.N.I. and with many thanks for your letter which I am treasuring, and with all the best in the world for you,

Sincerely
Fred.

P.S.
Miss. Swartz sends her best regards, E