

September 16th, 1940

Lt. Col. C. K. Russel,
#1 Neurological Hospital, RCAMC, CASF,
c/o The Base Post Office,
Canada.

Dear Colin:

I was certainly glad to hear from you. It was several weeks ago now. Apparently the arrangements you made at Basingstoke are coming to a head. I do hope that things are in order sufficiently to have a running establishment now and that you have beds and all the various things, but I cannot understand how you could have in so short a time. These are anxious times and from here we imagine that you are busy every moment. If you have moved in, I suppose you are. I hear a rumour that you are living in the stable. At least that will doubtless keep the rain off, and not even a Bosche would bother to bomb a horse.

We have Miss Lewis working here temporarily and she has a permanent job in Montreal outside of the Institute. It is like old times to have her back.

I motored down to Plattsburg last night and Helen went with me on a consultation to see a doctor's mother. Tell Bill Cone it was a trip he probably would have made had he been here. They all ask after him down there.

I have a feeling that by the time this letter reaches you the invasion will have been attempted. That thought leaves me wordless. They will be stopped, of course. I think only of the price and of what the devious course of these next years may be and how an end may be brought to the whole thing. No quick answer to this present mess would be a good answer. However, you may want to hear news rather than philosophical reflections.

Art Young was down at Magog during August and is back now and looking very well. He and Don and McNaughton are working on the wards. Norman Petersen has gone home after a

Letter to Lt. Col. C. K. Russel continued:

long period in the hospital with his heel. Confidentially, Colin, what would you advise me to do about Norman? He is able to do less all the time, but he is putting up such a grand fight that I shrink from the suggestion of even calling his present service half time. On the other hand, I need the help very much of a registrar and of someone who will watch the economic situation, and when I leave here my successor will need it even more. Kershman made a very good analysis of the relationship of the Institute and the Hospital and knows all about the finances. It is possible that we might want him to be Bursar of some sort. I have asked Norman to do a lot of the lecturing and certainly no one teaches better than he.

Gerald Birks came to see me yesterday. As you probably know he was an aviator in the last war. He has an idea that if they attach masseurs to the Flying Corps who could give the pilots a really good general massage the moment they came down from the air it might help them to relax a good deal. It might take the place of the exercise they don't feel up to taking and which they miss. It seems a novel suggestion in some ways but I think the psychological affect of a general massage would be excellent. I doubt whether the physiological affect is of very much importance, but it struck me that there might be something in it. What do you think?

When all the Holmes decided to stay over there I think I quite understood, and, no doubt, we would do the same thing in their place. Nevertheless, we would have been glad to have them out here. Give them my best regards when you see them.

We miss you very much Colin; a little of your humour would tone up things a lot right now, but no doubt it is needed over there still more.

Give my best to all the boys,

Yours sincerely,

WGP/AD