

Jagersfontein  
Oct 23rd 1900

Dear friend David

We were having a busy time of it since I last wrote you , we marched from Imaldual along the railway side down to Bloemfontein and we thought we were to have a few days rest, in fact we thought our marching and fighting was over as it is over six months since we left Bloemfontein, it is a very nice town , was on pass this afternoon so I went in to the town (you know we have to get our pass signed by our Officer) so I went to the theatre, it passed the night all right although it was not up to much.

This was on Monday night so on Tuesday night about half past nine we got orders to pack as we had to go off in a half hours time by train down to Edinburg station and from that we had to march thirty six miles to Jagersfontein as quick as possible as two of our companies was attacked by the Boers ,

we had nothing with us but one blanket as we had no transport with us ,so we got there as soon as we were able but the Boers took to their heels ,but not until ten of our men was killed the Boers took them by surprise before daylight , but our fellows gave them it pretty hot so we were sent out about a mile out of the town to do piquet duty on a small hill there is only forty of us so we have to be on the lookout pretty sharp we have to stand to our arms every morning at 4o'clock it is a good job the nights are getting warmer

there is a diamond field on each side of us in fact it is all diamond mines here round about it is a tidy little village there is a good many English men in it , it is them that saved the village from the Boers they worked splendid you should see them when we came in how they welcomed us the women and men was so glad to see the Highlanders marching in with the bagpipes playing.

Now we have started blowing up there houses that is all the Boers houses, fancy the Boer women fighting against us . one bitch shot one of our men with a revolver she came at his back and kicked him over, they were firing out of the windows at our fellows I am sure you will see it in the papers by this time. I suppose you would be thinking the war was over but it does not look very like it just now,

I am longing to hear from you as it is a long time since I heard from you I hope you are all well I am in the best of health and spirits, while I remain your affectionate friend.

A Murray  
write soon