

Howarden Castle
April 21st
False Bay

My Dear Lil.

I received your letter dated the March the ninth. I also had a letter from Mother and Jack. They were the first letters I had received since we landed on South Africa.

We had a very pleasant journey to Cape Town. We stopped there for four days and we enjoyed ourselves all right. I met Mr ... Jones' brother out there. We then embarked on the Majestic and proceeded to Durban and then entrained for Ladysmith and, after a five hour ride, we arrived at Ladysmith.

You should have seen the Boer positions around Colenso. It is wonderful how our men ever took them. We had to get out of the train when we got to the Tugela River. It was an awful sight: the dead horses and graves for several miles around the river. I saw Lord Roberts' son's grave at Chieveley it had a very nice white stone on it.

The day after we got to Ladysmith we went to Modderspruit where we joined the regiment. We camped there for about a week or ten days and then we returned to a place about a mile from Ladysmith called Surprise Hill Camp. We were only there for a short time when we had orders that we were to go to Cape Town and, now we have got here, we do not know what we are going to do. We have been anchored in the bay for three days and now and there is no signs of getting off yet.

I was very glad of your letters especially as I had not had one from any of you. Be sure to write often. The soldiers seemed to think that this regiment will have no more fighting so I do not think we will see any fighting at all; but there are all kinds all rumours about, some that we are going home and others that we are going up country, but the officers themselves do not know where we are going yet.

The Lismore Castle sailed for England today. As she passed us several of the fellows wished they were on board. She is a hospital boat and had eight of our battalion onboard. I have no more time to write much more as it is nearly post time and I do not know if the mails will leave the boat again this week. We know very little of the war out here we get no papers except a few now and again from home.

I have nothing more to say just now but be sure to write soon.

I remain your loving brother, Norman.

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The Address is
L. 60
not to be
sent to
A la Clique,
Rt. Lt.
J. H. Lawrence Castle
April 21
Table 134 f.
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The day after we got to
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We camped there for about
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we retired to a place about
a mile from Lady Smith.