

Steam Ship
Doune Castle
March 4th 1900

My Dear Lily

Just a few lines to let you know that we have had a safe and pleasant journey so far. We expect to arrive at the Cape tomorrow morning, but our letters have to be posted by 12 o'clock today. We should be stopping at Cape Town for a few days as all the troops are disembarking excepting the R.W.F. which will be going on to Durban which is about four days journey from the Cape. We stopped at Madeira for a few hours but it was in the night so we cannot tell what sort of a place it was. It looked alright at night, all the street lit up, and the place is on a hillside so it showed off all the night from the sea. It reminded me of Llandudno.

We have had all kinds of amusements on board cock fighting, pillow fighting, tug-of-war and racing and in the nights we have smoking, concerts and singing so the time has gone alright. We have had very fine weather all the way. We passed several steamers on the way and one of them brought us the news that Kimberley had been relieved. Of course, we were all very glad to hear that and we started a cheering. I am sure you could have heard it for miles and miles.

We crossed the equator on the 23rd of February. It was not as hot as I expected but it was a dull day and we had an awning all over the ship so that kept the heat from us a lot. The hottest day we have had was 100 degrees in the shade. We saw a lot of sharks one day and the officers shot one of them.

When we arrived at Madeira the natives came around us in small boats with all kinds of fruit but they were not allowed on board, so they had to smuggle it through the port holes. The sailors nearly drowned all of them with water that they threw at them ... but they came in spite of everything.

The ship's owners treated us to some oranges and bananas twice. It would come to a lot of money when there are about eight hundred of us on board. We have all had to wash our clothes, it was the hardest bit of work we have done since we were on board. We are fed very well; we have pudding every day. I have nothing more to say just now but be sure to write to me.

I remain your loving brother, Norman.

Miss L. M. Roberts

St. Thomas Hospu

Albert Embankment

London.

Great Britain

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A la Clique,
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 Stearn Hill #
 Down Castle
 March 14th 1900

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