

Wensday 29/8/00
Pretoria

My Dear Girl

I received your most
ever welcome & loving letter on the
23rd Aug. I was so glad to hear
from you just at that time. Because
we knew that a big fight was
in store for us in a few days
time. We marched rapidly
for about a week. to get up to
where French & Buller had
found the Boers in a good
position in a long ridge of
kopjes. & we were to give a hand
in driving them out.
We came up on Friday 24th &
had a big fight. none of us hit
except one who had a bullet cut
the band of his hat. On Saturday
the big Guns were mostly firing
but in the Afternoon we had to
go out and find out their
position & strength. We did
too by firing a few hundred
with a 2 1/2 lb. field gun.

And a poor poor And They gave
 us a lively time. We got to them
 with the rifle & quietened
 them a bit. But our duty was
 to find out their strength & not to
 fight that day. The next day
 Sunday 26th was the most
 fierce fight I was in yet
 trench engaged them on the left
 And drove them back & the mounted
 Infantry (our lot) charged them
 & beat them back about four
 miles And the Infantry was in the
 center. They walked at them in
 the face of a shower of lead
 It was terrible sight to see the
 stretchers bearers coming in with
 wounded men. They were shot in
 all sort of ways. some in the head
 & body & arms. It was about 4 p.m.
 when I tried to stop one with my
 finger. But it took my finger
 clean off by the first joint
 It was on the left hand & the
 marriage finger. I got it dressed
 on the field by a Doctor & on Monday

Morning we attended to again
 and at 2 pm we boarded a train
 some fifty men. The train started
 off at seven at night being five
 hours in a open truck with fifteen others
 all for Hospital two cases of fever
 We travelled all night and got
 to Pretoria at 2 pm in the afternoon
 being 24 hours in the truck.

We are well treated at the Hospital
 having a bath all over, which is
 a luxury & a change of clothes
 shirts & socks we only change when
 we happen to get new ones
 but our pants are never taken off
 except to put on a new pair
 One man had not had his clothes
 off for ten months. It was quite a
 treat to get new clothes. Free from
 lice which every man is covered
 with. It's nothing to see a man
 touch himself & kill a couple of
 hundred lice. We clean our ^{sees} one day
 & we have as many on us the next day
 We have got a nice spring bed now &
 everything clean & tidy & some nice
 young sisters to talk to.

I expect to be well again in
a couple of months, I think I will
be sent home soon & be & will not
be in the front again. So you can
expect to see ^{me} again about next time
probably before, although your boy
is a bit less, with some burials in
in the trenches

I am very pleased to hear that
you go to the Dances & I hope you
can teach me how to hop, as I have
forgot by this time. Mine will be
wally. Ah! Thought can meet thought
& spirit spirit. As oceans divide the
forms, I have no more news to tell
but say farewell, but not forever ^{I hope}
How hard it is to say farewell

To you, To me so dear
Oh I think that many months
must pass
Err I shall have thee near
But hope does still the reason soothe
As we from fond one sever
On a those sweet accents reach my
farewell, my love, but not forever ^{ears}

I will now say good bye for a time
remember me to Jessie, with love
& all friends. I am your affectionate
loving admirer.
For ever & ever
Your
Selling you