

131, DUROCHER STREET,

MONTREAL.

18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1915

My dear Dr. Maclellan

I am ashamed of myself for not having answered your splendid letter before. I was so glad to get it and appreciate it so much. I am afraid I did hesitate a bit.

In fact I have been in a state of unrest and hesitation ever since last August. Lectures are hard to separate but it was the taking of what was

due to the little tots and their  
mother that bothered me. How-  
ever there seemed no doubt  
in September and I am quite  
happy and satisfied that I  
am right to go. Of course  
I hate the whole thing but  
what can one do? The work  
is there and we who can do  
it must go and do what  
we can.

The battalion is getting on  
splendidly. We started active  
recruiting less than four weeks

ago and our strength this morning,  
actually on the strength, was 630 all  
ranks. We have lots more in various  
stages of progression towards being down  
in and are getting a good type. Our  
height standard is 2 inches above the  
ordinary too. General Meighan is very keen  
on the Guards idea. He succeeded in having  
our numeral done away with and now we  
are "Canadian Canadian Guards Overseas  
Battalion." He dreams of getting us into  
the Guards Division. I don't know about  
that. Time will tell.

We are lucky in having some veterans  
with us. The CO himself, Roger Anderson  
and our Sgt. Major. The last is Rooke who  
was CSM. of No 2. Co of the 14<sup>th</sup> George's  
company that perhaps did more to stop the  
rush outside St. Julien than any other unit.

Every one speaks well of George and also  
of little Gavin. He apparently is turning out  
splendidly.

We are to go to St. John's P.Q. next week. I hope  
to see you when you are up. Meanwhile  
with kindest regards to many thanks to you

Advice - I wish love to you all. Yours sincerely  
Robert S. Strain