

A.P.O. 518. France

July 19 1917

My dear Mrs Martland:

A note came from Alexander III dated June 17 and I have written him to day. Bless him for his spontaneous epistle to a soulless old soldier. Even men as old as I am like boys.

Thanks for your charming letter. I do not know whether my letters are going through from camp or not but many were sent by me before any came - and even yet I have had no direct replies. Father has been ill but is better - had no cable from mother but no direct communication from either one.

Our work goes steadily on. There is never any end because the stream of sick and wounded goes down and back again every day and there never is a feeling of a "finished" job. However I take a little time off and walk or go out for dinner or to near by towns on duty evenings. The tent life has become a habit - we fight

for such valuable things as an empty box
or a piece of wood. In a tent one cannot have
much more than a center pole to hang things
on. Last week I visited a nearby city and
bought a piece of oil cloth - American cloth
they call it. This is used to cover a small
hand made pine box table and another
rare piece of pine furniture used as a
wash stand - so that I am quite the
envy of many of my colleagues.

Last night was our first guest night.
I invited 12 officers from a Canadian
Hospital about 3 miles away. They
had to ride over on bicycles in a
pouring rain - so that they had to be given
a little stimulant to encourage them
on arrival. Later I got out the Navy
sander records - first time they had
been played and "enjoyable time
was had"

About the lip reading - I am greatly
interested and appreciate your friendly
help. My failure to make the studies
has not been caused by indifference

was by laziness but simply by the intense application and preoccupation of my profession. Any book on the subject you can send will be diligently studied and I am sure after 2 or 4 years of war I can master the rudiments. One unconscionably picks up some by reading when deaf, but it is not scientifically learned and fails when most needed. Thanks again for your interest. I have never said anything about it before, not from touchiness on the subject but for reasons above given. In odd moments now I do not read very much, because I am keeping reading until the colder months when work is lighter. Rarely I indulge in "near" sense making and what send you some efforts. Have in mind a piece of work I would like to finish this summer - surgical I mean - and hope I can get it to some publication. Have you been in Chicago

Since the war started? I wonder at all the changes which must be taking place - not noticeable of course but deep beneath the surface. Has Dr. Saddock been called into service - many of my friends have been called out and are stuck away in odd places at forts etc where they have to work I imagine. I would much rather be over here near where things happen.

Received a little picture the other day so small that I put it in the middle mirror of my 3 folding ones. Also mailed you a postal card photo last week which I trust will get through safely.

Will try to mail another letter soon - more like Peter - but today the mood is not there - The major is real overy, the doctor busy and Tomchstone - well as BHT says - write your own captions - must go to work. Best of luck to you - and send me any reading matter you wish - at any time. Love to the Kiddies
Sincerely
Kellogg Spear

Not read