

Aaron Dhillon, Age 16  
Shaftesbury High School  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

August 14, 1917

Dear Margret,

All is well here in the trenches. We have been sent to Belgium for our next mission. Constant shelling has had a negative impact though. The Fritz's artillery has destroyed most of the drainage basins causing our trenches to fill with water after heavy rains. Everything is mucky and if not careful you could suffocate in the mud. Our officers have to check our feet for trench foot every day. The shelling noise has also caused some men to get the jitters and nervous twitches but not me. How is Sally? I hear she has begun her schooling. I hope she is fitting in all right. How are you my darling wife? I know it's been a long time since this war began but I'll be home soon. I miss your cooking. Hard tack and bully beef just isn't the same as your mince-meat pie, but I hear it's better than what the Fritz get. I do look forward to the rum ration as it packs quite a kick. I've made a few friends here including a Tommy named Will. Did you know our good friend from church Cedric is here? I took a quick moment to get reacquainted with him. I hope this Belgian village is worth all the effort. I'm keeping busy as we can't move during the day and must move at night. I don't get much sleep as a result. It'll all be worthwhile when I can sleep next to you again.

Love Roger

*R. Greenburg*

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October 25, 1917

Dear Margret,

Things are still mucky here in Belgium. We have had over 100 000 casualties. The men are still in high spirits though. Brig. General Arthur Currie said there would be 16 000 more if we were successful in our objective. Our platoon captain said we're going on top tomorrow. Many before us were unsuccessful but I have courage. Hopefully my courage doesn't fail me. Unfortunately some of the men went mad with shellshock and had to be taken off the frontlines. Poor Cedric got

so spooked by the shells that he rushed the enemy. He was sniped seconds later. I'm counting the days until I see you again. I miss you and Sally so much. Hope to see you soon.

Love Roger

*R. Greenburg*

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November 10, 1917

To whom it may concern,

With sincerest condolences, we regret to inform you that frontline infantry Private Roger Greenburg of the Third Canadian Division was killed in action. His death was quick and painless. Thanks to his heroic sacrifice we were able to capture territory from the Germans. The other men in his division looked up to him for guidance and morale. He was loved by all and shall be missed. He will be buried in Flanders Field where he may rest in peace. He was always generous and kind to those new and old on the battlefield. If a soldier was having a bad day he would give them his rum ration or hard tack. He helped the injured out in no man's land even if he didn't know the person. The Tommies thought very highly of him too. He would always join in their session of tea and stories. I offer my condolences for your loved one. He will be remembered as a great Canadian war hero.

James Irving,

Platoon Captain