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Elliston Boy Writes Home from the Trenches in Belgium

Belgium, Jan 1, 1916.

My Dear Father and Mother,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am well and enjoying good health, hoping this will find you all the same. Well, I suppose as this is New Year's Day, you are all enjoying a good time around Elliston. I almost wish that I could be around to spend New Year's Day with you, but I am too far away now. We came out off the trenches last evening and are now out for a few days rest but we spent Christmas Day in the trenches, and, believe me, it was some day, not hardly a shot fired throughout the day, and some of the boys were over in the German trenches talking to the Germans.

...Have any of the other boys from Elliston enlisted? I know they are .?.ing us fellows. They don't realize what we have to put up with while fighting for King and Country...We had some photos taken...

Well, I hardly know anything new to tell you. You see we are not allowed to say anything about the war. Everything is the same old stamp. But I suppose that as long as you know that I am well, you are satisfied. I havn't had a letter from you lately but I am expecting one every day. I think, mother, I have said all now..

I received a letter from Roy and Jean and I got several boxes from St. John, N.B. You bet I have some pretty good friends in Canada. I suppose I shall soon get the box you sent me. Ask the friends about Elliston if they can spare a little time to knit some socks or mittens and send them over here. If I don't want them there is some other boy who does.

Give my love to all around Elliston, and as this is another New Year, lets hope and pray that the year 1916 will bring us a better and brighter year than 1915.

With best regards to all,

Cpl. Walter Steeds

26th Battalion, A Co., 2nd Canadian Contingent.