

TRANSCRIPT OF MAURICE DARBY'S LETTER TO HIS COUSIN, OLIVE

The place some deluded people call
SUNNY FRANCE

March 9th

My dear Olive,

Ever so many thanks for your nice long letter and also the chocolates which arrived last night. I didn't know where you were or what you were doing till you wrote. (That's another hospital now on my books: 14 up to date and 19 Convalescent Homes: all with charming pretty friends or relatives in them)!! By the way does this year count as one of the five before my invitation to the Ludlow Ball comes again with a fiver up the spout?

I am more cheered just now than I have been for a long time: if the Russian news is authentic (and it came from G.H.Q) and if certain other events are merciful I think the Boshes are finished in about 1 month: this of course is very vague, but I cant tell you more and it's private But I can tell you, the news all round is very good indeed. Mother is much better I hear now and I think the rest will do her all the good in the world. I haven't seen Alistair at all.

We had a nice bit of scrapping last October at Ypres: then we went to Meteren and rested for a week: got another battalion from England to make ours up to strength and since the middle of November till now we have been doing 4 days in and 4 days out of the trenches all the winter. It's a bit 'parky' at times, but otherwise all right. (and fortunately I can swim): we are resting for a week now and then. I don't know quite what. All the men say that when the war is over they aren't going to pay rents any more but live underground. I think the old Bosh are nearly finished now: I mean about 1 big knock on this frontier and their internal trouble will see the Grenadiers mounting

guard on Potsdam Palace. Did you hear
about this: There was a young lady of Ypres (Wipers)
Who was shot in the back by some snipers
Thro the holes that were made
Such tunes could be played
That they shamed all the [...] Highland Pipers.
Bybye. Best love to Eustace and you and all.
Yrs affect. Maurice