

# TRANSCRIPT OF A LETTER HOME SENT BY MAURICE DARBY

COPY

October 27 1914

Tuesday (I think)

My darling Mother, Father, Molly

This is coming home by a sick servant, so uncensored. I am absolutely safe and sound, thank God. We have had an appalling time. I wrote and said we were at Ypres. We went eastward and entrenched at Kruistik [Kruiseke] near Beauwoorde [Bellewaerde].

I have been in the trenches for 10 days solid (without taking my boots off) either in the firing line or in the support trenches just behind. We were on a 'spur' of a hill and enfiladed both sides. We were attacked again and again and have had very heavy casualties. In one company 4 out of 6 officers are killed and the 5<sup>th</sup> wounded: Poor Norman S has gone, and Walters. On one occasion (Sunday night) Lambert saved the side when they charged his trenches: The Commanding Officer told him so; (do write and tell his mother that please, because I know he won't:

Mrs Slater Lambert

47 [Princes Gate]

London

Miles Ponsonby is safe, Lambert and I; of our Co: Capt Moss is ill & Teddy Lymans gone home yesterday with sciatica or something.

We are resting now; & I don't think we shall ever get into such a nasty position again.

Another division has relieved us, as the whole division is badly knocked, & we shant get into action again for some time I expect as we have to refit, supplies etc.

The Germans reply entirely on machinery And masses i.e. machine guns and artillery and losing numbers of men. I have on good

authority, they don't mind the French, are  
frightened of Belgians, and have to be  
driven in most cases to face the  
British.

My best love to all. I should like  
another very thick jacket from J & P as  
Molly suggests, but very big round to  
allow for two waistcoats,

Yr Loving  
Maurice