

(Cambridge Independent Press, Friday, 7 May 1915)

Had to Live in Cellars.

—A. H. Curzon, writing to Scout C. Clark, of 4, St. Andrew's-street, Cambridge, from "somewhere in Belgium," says:

"As you know from the paper, we have been engaged in heavy fighting lately, but so far I have escaped without a scratch, although I have lately been in hospital suffering from shattered nerves and loss of sight, but I am glad to say that I am back again now, but I am afraid my poor sight will prevent me from being of much use again. I must not mind, however, that is of minor importance to some of the things one finds out here.

We have lately been quartered in what was once a fine and large town, with imposing buildings. It has several times been captured and re-captured by both sides, but it is now, I think, permanently in our possession—that is to say, what is left of it, for every house is in ruins. However, the German aeroplanes saw that we had a good many troops there, so they bombarded it with 'Jack Johnson' for two days. It was terrible. We had to live in cellars. They have now withdrawn us to a place of safety outside the town.

The regiment is now in the trenches with the Regular Army. We have also experienced, among other things, life in 'dug-outs,' in woods, just behind the firing line. Some are very cosy. One day we were busy preparing tea, when the enemy very unkindly sent over some shrapnel shells, which effectually hindered us. I am keeping one bullet, which only missed me by an inch or so. Personally, I have not seen much of French warfare, as I am engaged with the Communication Section, whose business consist chiefly of carrying despatches under fire, and this sometimes even at night."