Last letter not numbered should have been 71.

Letter 72.

No 7 Can. Stat. Hosp.
B.E.F.
July 5th 1916.

Dear Mother

It's over 100° in my hut with scarcely a breath of air but do want to send you a few lines to let you know both Mildred & I are O.K. You never would recognise your daughter these days, running about in the blazing sun, & being none the worse for it. Of course we all have lost a few pounds of flesh & I get an occasional headache, & while one can't enjoy themselves in this intense heat, it's wonderful to feel as well as I do — & marvelous to relate my appetite good. Lately we have been rather disobeying orders that came out early in the spring, & are eating lettuce, cucumbers fruit if we can get it, etc. I don't quite know why lettuce was tabooed except that the people around are so filthy, that they don't hesitate to use their gardens as "latrines", & of course with the few conveniences we have impossible to keep enough boiled water going to allow for the washing of vegetables etc. naturally with water as precious as it is here, the lettuce must

become contaminated. However lettice season is practically over now, & it isn't on the table ten minutes before it's polished anyway.
Did I tell you we were now getting a limited amt. of ice? ~~I can~~ You can't imagine what a blessing even the little we have is. Unfortunately no ice-boxes of any kind have been provided for the hospital. So up to the present time we have been able to make the most of it, but gradually we are getting the patients' eatables tied & in throwing a box out of packing cases, medicine, biscuit boxes, surround & excelsior & then covering the whole with a blanket. Curious to relate such details are always left it seems true to the sisters when one might reasonably expect some member of the unit would provide something for all the lines. However one has to accept conditions as they are ~~make~~ do the best they can under the circumstances.
The hospital has every bed filled & will continue I imagine to be busy, so long as this weather lasts. The average temp. of the patients is abnormally high, 104 to 106 on each line a daily occurrence for numerous

patients & quite frequently an odd one lighter. This means of course frequent spongings, & so long as there is no active fighting & no wounded one can cope with it. I presume under different circumstances they would be shifted immediately to the base. Our line is really a surgical one, but we have been forced to turn half of it practically into a medical one. Just twelve I've seen more bad peritonitis cases here in three weeks than during my whole training – In our two tents of surgical patients of 1 line (16 patients in each) we have had very ill peritonitis cases, & one convalescent also a bad typhoid perforation. But they are splendid patients & do wonderfully well in spite of the flies, & a certain amount of infection due to excessive perspiration.

Have I mentioned our latest comfort is a bath room – a small enclosure, with cement floor, & galvanized iron roof & walls, with tin bath in the centre, with a limited supply of water – A large washing cart is pulled just outside, & a tap attached, so all we

have to do is shine on the lady. Of course as there are 29 of us to share the same tub it cannot be a daily luxury, but it's mighty great to get one occasionally.

Mildred told you in her note of the pleasant surprise we had on receiving her bank book. I shared have the same, but can't believe I have so much to my credit. When I sent you that cheque I hoped there would be about $200.00 left, but never dreamt of having $500.! Of course if you would prefer using that money for this trip instead of using it as capital don't hesitate to do so; I want you to use it just any way you it will give you the most pleasure.

Yesterday see. a package of lemonade powder from Uncle Geo. which is going to be most useful. I forgot to mention one of the officers made me a small ice-box for my tub well packed in excelsior etc. so hope to come off duty occasionally & find a nice cold drink. Of course we can't hope always to have ice there but once we get a piece find it keeps for two days.

There are as usual rumors going the round that we won't be here much longer, but personally I hope ~~it~~ they are not true, for it would be at least six weeks before we would leave, & by then the worst of the heat would be over & I dread the thought of the cold in ~~this~~ England or France during the winter months, for I know after a year out here, we are going to feel the cold very much. However I never dreamt I could stand the heat & here I am feeling as well as the next one, so why worry —

Did I tell Lucille that our Chaplain has gone to England on sick leave for a month or six weeks, leaving a Miss Hamlin in charge; a sister who has been her assistant for months, a pretty attractive girl but a great deal of tact, & so a good one to leave in the office.

We are hoping daily for re-inforcements, but so far no word of them. Whether they have been asked for no one seems to know but certainly they are badly needed. Only two Sisters are off duty

at present one with a broken clavicle (fell over a tent-rope on night duty) the other with a nasty attack of jaundice — the one is the Acting Matron, 3 on night duty, 2 in the Operating Room, leaving 21 on day duty to look after just over 400 patients, the majority of whom need a great deal of nursing — of course we can only do our best & let the rest go; one simply wonders how at a month, mentioned they took some time off duty every day —

We hear his more hospitals have just arrived & are to be stationed near here, whether this means a move for some who have been here a long time, or whether it is by way of preparation no one seems to know — or perhaps I should say no one has told us —

Well dear this is all hospital talk, but I know you are interested in anything & at least it will tell you Mildred & I are both well & happy. Love to Mollie & Artie & always a whole heap for your own self

Over yours lovingly

temp. now 101 - Still going up.

Have never asked you to make me an Mollie.

odd veil & please slip-waist in your spare moments?

Mildred & I are both, & taking the energy & commissions & make them.