



DOMINION LINE

SS "CANADA"

Between Madeira & Cape Verde Is.
Feb 10 - 1900.

My dear Maggie.

We are now nearly at St Vincent,
which will finish the first stage of our
journey, you can imagine how anxious
we are for news, I wonder what it will be,
we passed Transport 2074 homeward bound
this morning, she had no news to give us.

The doctors have been experimenting
on the Officers with the anti-Enteric stuff.
It seems to be quite a toss up what the
result is, some had raging fevers and
violent-pains, others myself included

escaped with very little inconvenience except for a violent pain in the side where the stub is injected. The results according to the Medicos are wonderful, a typhoid microbe has scarcely more than to look at one, to die an instant death. I hope it may be so.

The men are very closely packed, 2000 take up a good deal of room. As it is quite impossible for them to take any exercise on their own decks, they come on to the officer's deck in turns for an hour, as each man's turn only comes round every 3 days, each man will only have 6 hrs exercise between Southampton & ^{Cape Town} ~~Queenstown~~

This seems a more likely explanation of the inability of the troops to march on arrival in S Africa, than the Daily Mail which was that the men were so weak from want of food that they could hardly stand.

We have had very good weather, and runs averaging over 14 knots up to date, though some managed to be sea sick in spite of the smoothness.

It is hard to believe that only a week ago we were nearly frozen. Today it is just about as warm as is comfortable next week it will be too warm to be pleasant. Transport No 72 has just passed quite close.

There are not many notabilities on board.
One of the Cadogans is going out in
Special Service. Major Felt's of the
Irish Rifles is going out with us, he is
some distant relation of the Bishop of
St Albans, and has been in the
West Coast for some time. There are
lots of Garrison gunners on board
I do not know what they are going to
do when they get there.

Your aff brother

John Spatterwood

Tell Theo this is written with her pen, I think
she must have put some water with the ink