

7 July 1917

Dear Bishop-

You will have heard by now, from Bernard, who has, I trust, arrived home safely, the news about Aidan, and the full particulars, and I feel quite certain in my own mind, that he has been taken in by the Germans, and I only hope, that with proper attention, he will have a good chance to recover, and that in due time you will have him home once again -

Of course, as his Company Commander, the responsibility lies on my shoulders, but we were ordered to do this particular work by the Higher Authorities, and I selected Aidan for the task, on account of his exceptional qualities, and bravery -

The night was unfortunately too light and his party must have been seen, and the Boche got round on their flank - You will have heard these details but I want you to know that he had express orders if he got in a scrap to get back, as

~~That~~ a trap was not my object -
 He had ordered his party to go back and
 was bringing up the rear when a chance
 bullet unfortunately got him in the leg
 and when the others came back and I
 found he was not in, I sent out another
 Patrol under another officer - They found
 Aidan, hit in the thigh, but in coming
 back for a stretcher the officer named
 Peters, was hit in the head and killed
 instantaneously, and as Captain Honey had
 also been wounded - in trying to get to him,
 and it was almost daylight, I felt I would
 not allow anyone else to try, much as I
 should have liked to - Bernard, & Sammy,
 as we always call him went out both
 the next two nights and every effort was
 made to find him, and had he still been
 out I am sure they would have been
 successful -

I tried to do my best under the circumstances
 and all the others who went out were splendid
 and went out each time willingly, but I feel
 very distressed at losing two officers like
 you & Aidan and Peters - we were all

very fond of Ardian and we can't afford
such loss from our point of view and I
would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy
to you and to your wife -

I hope you will not think me presumptuous
but I am sending you the address of
Peter's father as I feel sure you would
like to write to him - Peter was a boy
of great charm and courage and I trust
he willingly gave his life in the attempt
to get Ardian in - He was only twenty
two -

With my sincere sympathy

Yours very sincerely
Arnold J. Kraper