France 19.8.17.

Dear Miss Fox, "Bell Telephone Engineers Corps"

(Please forgive) It is with feelings of deepest sorrow I am writing you from trenches to-night. We learned of Charlie's death & a feeling of gloom has spread among his comrades in arms. Even here amid the heat & excitement of these stirring times when we are living in a state of actual fighting & seeing lions. All particulars will have been sent to your people but I want all to know that he died as he lived ever since he enlisted with us in Port Hope in Jan 1915 a soldier devoted to duty & doing his part with every quality of a man & soldier. You may be as well blind here but all is not appearing what we all felt personally & better

as a friend & many, many talks we had together in Port Hope & our early days in 39/B.N. I might say that if it is & I know it will be at least some little comfort to you in these hours that are very dark to you all that Charlie's death was painless & that he was on a forced duty during a month's attack of fever & that his body was carried out by his comrades & if you knew the circumstances would show how he was loved & respected by the men & officers of this platoon he was with. Now in conclusion I am, for Lakeside me you & your family have the most sincere sympathy myself in this sad hour of grief. It is with pride I write that Charlie fell in one of the most brilliant

fights of the whole campaign & that it is unenviable & that it is the death that every soldier covets to die in a fight with his face to the foe & much I say that is the same to get for the same from I lost 28 men out of 36 in my platoon & with 16 reinforcements I lost 9 more in less than two hours but also the satisfaction of knowing that we were quite successful in repelling a fierce counter attack. This seems cold comfort but I often think of you homeless & hide in the days when you were in Belle Isle & as Charles said I do sympathize with you & feel very very keenly the loss. In fact the I cannot write it I feel burned & will do anything I can for you & I will get out alive.)

will write you more fully
later if this is of any
use to you. I should
write from Seattle but as
you are the only one I know
I am sending this box
to you. While we have
a few seconds quiet. I know
this is roughly expressed but
knowing they travel fast
the deed I again express
to you all that I cannot write
in way of regrets at our loss
I trust your Brother is
21st Bn is all right & gets
through safely I remain
yours most sincerely
Milbert Edwards

This letter was found in a legal document donated to the Port Hope Archives by local lawyer, Ron Good.