Frongoch Camp

Bala

23 December 1916

My Dear Archbishop,

Five months ago when they were releasing the men interned here, in hundreds, I said I should be the last Irishman left in Frongoch, and today I am.

I have worked for the release of these men during these five months, making two journeys to Ireland, and one to London, where a fortnight ago I spent most of a morning with the Duke at the Irish Office in Old Queen's Street, and finally came away with the assurance that the "Auspicious season wasn't far from us and... that Christmas was Christmas"

I had told him three months before that there was no use in asking the men generally for guarantees, written or otherwise.

To-day the gates of the compounds are thrown open, and to-night there will not be a single Irishman (save myself) left in Frongoch. I have applied to Western Command for a medical board at the earliest possible date, and expect to get some short leave, after which I go straight to France.

I am delighted to hear you have completely recovered.

All the season's greetings.

Lieut. Stafford C.T.

I am saying Mass for the Belgian Refugees in Bala on Christmas Day.