Dear friend David

You would be wondering that I did not write you before this, but we were kept so busy one way or another that the time passed so quick, we have been served out with new clothing we got three suits of clothing two pair of boots and one pair of slippers and a lot of other things.

Now dear friend we are going off on Friday at last, we were longing to get away ever since we came back the last time.

I am writing the pastor tonight about giving over the place (the Croft) to you, we have been insured by a Elgin gentleman for £100 each so if anything will happen me I willed it over to Betsy. [David's wife and Alexander's sister]

Dear Davie we will be going right through from the fort to Southampton, my old mistress sent everyone of us from Dornoch 25 Shillings each so that was not so bad from her, there is some letters in my box if you would kindly tie them up in a parcel so that no one would get at them and if I don't get back for some time would kindly burn them all. There is a book about Gardening (Alexander was a gardener at Dornoch Castle) in a hamper if you would send it to Robert Murray him that was working with me as it is no good to you, you would oblige, be sure and write as soon as this comes to your hand as it will take some time before we will get your letter here give my love to Betsy and all the family hoping to see you all some day, we are all in the best of spirits and longing to get to the front , you would wonder the difference that is on us since we came up here you should see us in the Khaki uniform it makes us quite soldier like, now I must close

with love to you all

from Alick