



T.S.S. "MONTEZUMA."

West Down Camp  
Salisbury Plain  
England  
23. Oct 14.

My dear Bob.

On my arrival here I found your letter of October first awaiting me also two from Mother and one each from Alice and Estelle. I shall not attempt to answer them all direct so please let those concerned read this as opportunity offers.

I note what you say about business and am very sorry that it is so quiet. That is to be expected however and I only hope we can get some of the shells which would help to tide things over. Commitments are very much in order as the war has hardly really started and things will not likely improve until it is on the way to a settlement of some sort. I am sending enclosures from time to time and will be glad if you will put them in the drawer you have "allocated".

Am glad that you are taking in the news and suppose that Dolly and Denbigh, will give you and Alice some good news. It is too bad that the Debs are not participating but



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things will be pleasanter without them. I saw Campbell Becher and told him what you said about the Hunt. His horse came over on my ship and stood the trip very well.

I note what you say about Blandford and your own corps and expect all will be needed in due course. Hughes ought to be at home looking after a second contingent instead of posing in the limelight here. It is a thousand pities that the Conservative party cannot get rid of him as he is the laughing stock of our contingent and the War Office.

Many thanks for the memo regarding funds which is perfectly satisfactory. If you have vouchers for the amounts paid St Thomas Journal and Free Press for advertising please make claim on Tooley as all this should be charged to mobilization or remount accounts and paid by the department. The Austin account is O.K. it was a cap I had sent from Toronto just before I left.

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I presume that the company are allowing my "honorarium" each month but I will of course leave that to father and yourself to decide. When you have time I shall be glad to know how much you transfer from the Bank of Toronto and Dominion Bank to the N. & E. I have no way of making a check but will then be able to tell approximately how much being in the militia has cost me for the past year. Do not forget that my Canada Life Policy premium is due about the middle of November - the Mutual not until next spring.

This place is about ten miles from the nearest railhead and everything is transported to and from by means of motor lorry and steam traction engine. This seems a tremendous waste of energy but suppose it is all a part of the training. We are only a few miles from Netheravon (the British cavalry school) and yesterday a brigade of artillery was firing live shell very near us and we could see the flashes of the guns also the



bursts of the shell. Aeroplanes are continually passing over our camp and we passed two monuments marching in, erected in memory of officers who had lost their lives while flying.

It is too bad that there will not likely be much gaiety but perhaps things will not be so dull as at present a little later on. The Barrons certainly were unfortunate in choosing this year of all others to come back to London. Suppose that Aunt Lizzie and the Fitzgualds will stay at the Barrons when they go up to London. Give them my love when you see them.

I got clippings about Lady Gibbons funeral and have written young George. Also received those from Saturday night which occasioned considerable amusement here when I showed them to a select few.

Too bad about Jupp's marriage being put it. She wrote me a very nice note wishing good luck etc. Jupp should certainly have been included in the contingent. Really some of the officers are a disgrace to Canada and so



many know little or nothing about their work. Several have already got into trouble and the behavior of some of the men in one or two infantry regiments has been disgraceful.

Moses was here the other day and I got a rain coat and ordered several other items. I intend going to London in the near future but not until more of our equipment arrives and things are in better shape. I even had to steal some shovels to get our horse lines clean and they have to be mowed every couple of days as there is so much rain.

Joe had about Sid having a black eye for his wedding trip, but it will give his wife something to doctor for the first few days. She will probably have other things to doctor up before very long.

Give my regards to Messrs. Holmes and Morgan. It is about ten miles now since I more or less dropped work at the office. I would also be glad if you would call up or go in and see Samlin and remember me to



him and tell him I see Wilson nearly every day as the Horse Artillery are very close to us. Henri Panet thinks this war rings the death knell of horse artillery and that light field artillery will take its place entirely.

"Lil" Harcourt is in the heavy Battery and they say he is to be transferred to our column. Garnet Hughes has been made a lieutenant colonel by his father and is brigade major of one of the infantry brigades - the same job that Col. Macdonnell has in the first Brigade. I saw Ed. Panet the other day, he has a staff job of some sort in the infantry also. Henri tells me that a French Canadian regiment has been authorized and that Edmond has been offered the senior majority in it.

25 Oct. Sunday.

Still raining intermittently all day. Really the weather most ~~disturbing~~ disgusting and under other circumstances would probably be very depressing. This morning we had a church parade at 9.30 which was dismissed. Later another one was

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called and after marching a couple of miles we  
formed up and took part in a service conducted  
by the Chaplain General to the forces, a Bishop  
presumably of Salisbury.

I was to have gone matroning today with  
the Colonel but the weather was too bad to  
say nothing of the roads. We have several parties  
out scouring the country for horses but we  
are still short quite a few though not in  
my section, I am glad to say.

I do not think that the embarkation of  
this contingent at Quebec could have been handled  
worse even if some German spies had taken charge  
of it with a view to making as much confusion  
as possible. Consequently the mix up on this  
side are something scandalous. Then again, the  
Bain wagons and farm harness with which we  
are equipped cannot possibly stand up to the  
work and I fear something will have to be  
procured to replace them.

I note what you say about getting your  
and father's suits over to Canada but fear

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I can do nothing for you unless I run across  
some one who happens to be going home.

Will draw this to a close now as I  
want to get to bed. The rain is fairly peltting  
on the outside of the tent but fortunately  
we are still dry inside.

Best love to all

yours as ever  
Wood.