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before I can get over again.  
I am naturally delighted with  
the arrangement as I did not  
find her looking quite as well  
as I would have liked and  
stuffy smoky London is no  
place for anyone who can get  
away for the hot months.

There was a marked improvement  
however after our week in  
the country and I feel that the  
summer in that beautiful  
spot will do her a great deal  
of good. I could not have  
wished for a nicer or  
better little house or  
part of the country for her  
to spend the summer in and  
only half an hour from  
London! Should she have <sup>reason</sup> to  
go to town.

1st June 1917  
France

My dearest Mother

Here I am back again in  
France and if it were not for  
the fleeting memory of my  
wonderfully happy days with  
Sarah it would seem as if  
I had always been over here.

A week ago tonight we were  
together in the dear little house  
in Taplow and two weeks ago  
we were at the Riviera Hotel  
at Maidenhead and so happy  
together. Some times I feel that  
if I had not married her that  
I would not want to get  
back at all but her love



evidently had been rescued. You will know  
by now that we did not spend our last leave in  
Paris as I had some of my brother's affairs in  
England to straighten out which necessitated  
my going there. I think however that you  
are unduly exercised about her coming over  
as a great many women cross daily and there  
seems to be comparatively little danger on the  
cross-channel routes; however we will bear  
your wishes in mind and as long as I can  
get English leave we will <sup>meet</sup> ~~at~~ there instead  
although I fear she will be out of the dear little house

and the hope of our future  
happiness dispel such thoughts  
which have come to me  
more often now that I have  
no one over here in France  
to talk things over with  
occasionally.

I am writing principally to  
let you know about Sarah's new  
surroundings from my point  
of view although I also have  
your letter of April 5<sup>th</sup>  
unanswered before me as well.  
I fear you have not received all  
my letters, not that I write as  
often as I should but there  
are some you have not acknowledged  
and which I fear have gone astray  
Your last one had sea  
water marks on it and



friends down as there are  
two spare rooms in addition  
to the three they occupy and  
the maids; Such a nice  
comfortable maid too and she  
promised <sup>me</sup> she would take  
good care of the dear little  
woman. I wish very much  
that circumstances would  
permit of your coming over to  
spend the summer with her  
but fear you would not be  
able to even if it were possible.

Rebath got weighed. Sarah  
was 120 lbs and although I  
would like to see her a little  
fatter yet I think this is a  
fair weight.

altogether I think it will  
be a very good move and I feel

Sarah had to decide about  
it before she could exchange  
letters with me but the  
move has my hearty approval  
and is what I have urged on  
her for some time past.

There is less danger of raids  
there and the air is pure and  
delightful and the food she  
will get will be better, more  
plentiful and more homelike  
and she will not be alone as  
Mrs Wilson is going to spend  
nearly all the time there while  
Mrs Wilson (who likes very  
much) will be down for weeks.



other items were not extras. These extras in England are a great drain.

Sarah will likely send you some snaps of the house that we took. The garden is quite large with flowers and shrubs everywhere and nice and private. The house has electric light, bath and all modern conveniences and is furnished most tastefully and gives one a real home feeling which I have not experienced for two years. I am so glad we had two happy days there alone together before I had to come back. I will never forget them. I beg back the Wilsons and Sarah will be able to write to you.

and holidays and if possible once during the week as well. I paid him a special visit in his office at the Consulate to let him know just how I felt about Sarah being alone and to let him feel how much I depended on his mother and him to keep her company. I hope it will pay out economically and am sure she will get better value as I have always felt that Hysart charges were very high for what they gave. Our living for the four days we spent at the Riviera (Maidenhead) was less than Sarah paid <sup>at Hysart</sup> and the meals were better and more plentiful and tea and



I am quite reconciled to the  
thought of being here except  
for not having you with me, I  
am sitting on green benches (we  
named each of the four benches  
as I wanted to know just she was in  
the garden) with birds singing  
and air so sweetly scented. I  
feel she will be as happy as  
possible there.

Our front is now comparatively  
quiet and I only have to visit  
the front line about once a day a  
week so there is not much need  
to worry as I have told her.

I picture you now back at  
beautiful Ebury in his spring  
garb and wish we both were  
with you. I hope you are  
well and not worrying too  
much. Very much love Ibf

P.S. Please  
tell Percy that  
the fact of my  
not writing  
does not mean  
that I don't  
often think of  
him and yet.

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She will be happier and better  
there than in London and that  
she will soon make some more  
nice friends as she has a great  
many very nice families  
near by and in Maidenhead  
just across the river.

She will have told you about  
our doings together. I will  
not repeat except to say that  
it was our very happiest  
leave together (our first) and  
I never loved or needed her  
more than I do now since  
I have lost my life long chum  
and companion. She has



a sister. They were especially drawn together last  
January when he was over about a month  
undergoing an operation on his nose and they  
were a lot together. I saw & meant a great deal  
to him to have her in this absence of both war  
the girls and she was so devoted to him. I am  
very sorry that you never knew him and  
he yet.

I have just received my first letter from  
her since my return and although she was tired  
after working out last Saturday after I left her  
she says "How different from that grumpy London

down more to comfort me and  
help me during the sad and  
trying days of the last two  
months than anyone else  
in the world and I have  
never appreciated her love  
and devotion more.

We had a little brass  
plate made for Wood's cross  
(only plain wood crosses are  
allowed until after the war) and  
look it over the day after I  
got back. My chief pleasure  
after getting back from leave  
used to be going over to  
spend a few hours with him  
but this time my visit was  
to his last resting place only.  
Wood was very devoted to  
Sarah and looked on her as