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19 April

Dearest Mother

I feel I have very much neglected you especially as I see my last letter was 1st April. It seems out of the question to write when on leave although I took my book with me and had intended to do so but my excitement, I suppose, about getting over prevented it. As I want to make a start tonight I will commence a brief summary without delay.

Sunday 2nd April. Up at 6.30 so as to differentiate from week days. Just like summer, windows open and sun shining. McEwen & Spencer still away. Thought I should have conducted dunnie service, I feel I could have done so. Allowed the men away and spent the morning writing up war diary. Majors Smith of Yorkshire Hussars over for lunch. Inspected saddlery at noon and awarded prizes to 1st Troop and Sgt Faulkner. Planned tomorrow's scheme with Kennedy. We try to give these things a good deal of thought. Went around for evening stables. Wrote Sarah in evening.

Monday 3rd April. Rev 5.00 AM and did a day guard scheme under direction of Capt Chance. Motored over to one of the Cavalry Brigades for lunch with

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General Pitman who was very cordial  
After lunch we saw "J" Battery R.H.A.,  
Major Bryan. All horses originally  
were chestnuts although some  
replaced since beginning of war. They  
have been out ever since. I find the officers  
of these regular units most decent chaps  
in every way, and quite a contrast to the  
youngsters and more recently raised  
units. Returned back with Chance and  
de Berg (of Indian Army) and lectured to  
men on tomorrow's scheme in school  
house at our village at 5:00 P.M. Campbell  
a little better. Evacuated 3 horses with  
all saddlery on which the attending  
vet thought had mange but saw site  
it was not.

Tuesday 4th April Up at 5.30 and attacked  
a village held by one of platoons of our  
own cyclists distinguished by white  
bands around their caps. Major  
Hennedy handled the defenders while I  
took charge of the attack. I think it  
was very interesting and instructive and  
these cavalry chaps say it has to be done  
very often in cavalry work. The great  
idea seems to be to circle around the  
village and cut off the defenders retreat.  
Planned tomorrow's scheme with Hennedy

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in which we are to operate against the  
manned traps of one of the British  
divisions also in training at same time.

Wrote out possible alternatives and what  
we would do in each case. Had a rifle  
inspection in the afternoon and had to  
check Thompson. Rain in afternoon.

Wednesday 5th April 5.00 A.M. start.

all my men wear white hat bands.  
Kennedy took charge of centre with 4 plato  
while I took over our main attack  
on the right. We were supposed to be  
pursuing a retreating enemy. By  
moving my main force through a wood  
I got around them and cut off two motor  
machine guns. They were given 20  
minutes to take up a new line and we  
attacked again. Major Seymour  
summed up afterwards and gave us  
some praise. Wrote Alice a few lines  
in evening. The others threw dice  
for a time. Went for a nice walk  
in the afternoon. Weather colder but  
picked some flowers growing under the  
hedges. This is a beautiful part of the  
country. I am greatly taken with it.  
Bed about 10.00 P.M.

Thursday 6th April Did not get up  
until 6.00 P.M. a little tired. The

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Squadron now forms up every morning after stables to hear orders read. It is a great thing to have them all together again. I sent White out to defend a wood which we attacked later, a very difficult operation and one which I fear we could never have carried out in actual practice. Lute called today. Found my leave warrant waiting for me on my return from 8th to 17th and tried to visit Sarah but the visit was turned back. Rode over to see a Hatcher's rifle used in the afternoon. The Cavalry Corps are getting them now and we expect our own very soon. They are really an automatic rifle and light machine gun. Had tea with the English unit and rode home Friday 7th April. Weather cloudy but no rain. Did an outpost scheme on some neighbouring hills. Held office and punished several delinquents. I thanked Chaire for his interest in us and said goodby. Started off on my 35 kilometer ride to the coast at 2.10 PM accompanied by faithful Leslie. Made the seaport in 2½ hours steadily going through beautiful country but very hilly. Was disappointed to find my boat until 1.45 PM tomorrow as I had half expected to get over tonight.

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or at latest early tomorrow-morning. However I made the best of it and wired Sarah. Had trouble stabling my horses for the night but finally succeeded and got a bed for Leslie nearby. Had dinner but was too unsettled to write diary letter as I had intended. Met young Williamson of RCHA. Retired ~~in~~ nice room at hotel and slept well.

Saturday 8th April. Had to buy a piece of soap as it is never supplied over here. Leslie came up and cleared my boots with his handkerchief and then started on his ride back. Had breakfast with Williamson and looked up Col Bubbitt at the Mc Gill hospital. I wanted see Refard and had heard Pauline Iny was there (and thought it would have been nice to look her up (Tell Helen if you see her Alice please) but found she was not there. Had lunch and embarked about 1:15 on the usually crowded boat which started on time, escorted by a destroyer. Beautiful sunny day and quite calm so very pleasant. T. Cain met us on wharf and no stop to London where I arrived about 6:00 PM and found Sarah (looking very well) at Hotel Cecil waiting for me. We had a nice room with bath and breakfast

for 19 shillings. <sup>6</sup> Not quite as modern as <sup>19 Apr</sup>  
the Carleton but very comfortable and  
service excellent. We were both very happy  
to be together again.

Sunday 9th April Wet in morning so sat  
in gallery (glass) overlooking the Embankment  
and had lunch in the Grill. Went to P.M.  
service at St Pauls at 3.15 but the sermon  
was long although music very beautiful  
but of course Dunlop. Had tea at the Piccadilly  
where we remained until 7.30 when we went  
to the Sunday concert at the Palladium  
which was excellent with <sup>orch</sup> grand band.

There were over 20 members and I enjoyed them  
all. Had cold chicken and lettuce at the Cecil  
afterwards

Monday 10th April Spent morning shopping  
going to Hill Bros where I ordered breeches  
and top cap. Went to Moses about old account  
which they wrote Father about last  
summer. Am sure I paid it. They are  
going to write Cal Abbott again. Bought  
tickets for theatre and lunched at the Pell  
Mell a favorite place of ours. Drew some  
money at Bank of Montreal. Had tea  
at the Savoy to see gay crowd but  
disappointed. Saw "To night's the night"  
at the Gaiety and enjoyed it very much  
Comedy. Had supper at the Cecil.

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Tuesday 11th April. Left Paddington for  
 Oxford at 10.20. Found the town very  
 interesting although no time to visit the  
 colleges. Had lunch at 3 Church Walk  
 and was very pleased with Sarah's quarters  
 and surroundings. Met Mrs Lamb who has  
 been very kind to her although I think it  
 has been a mutual exchange. We took  
 a hansom on called on Miss Parter  
 the Morrison's and Mrs C.W. Leonard who I  
 found delightful and her daughter very  
 charming and extremely pretty. They were  
 kindness itself and had wanted us for  
 lunch but we had not received the letter.  
 Returned to town at 5.00 PM and dined at  
 the Trocadero and then saw Mr Manhattan  
 (Raymond Hitchcock) at Price of Wales.

Wednesday 12th April. Took the Grill  
 for breakfast. Sarah has a little cold  
 so decided not to go to Edinburgh for two  
 days as we had intended but will postpone  
 this trip for another leave. Saw Campbell  
 at lunch at Cecil and heard how the  
 Squadron had returned and settled down.  
 He seems quite better and is tickled  
 to death to be over. Visited Canadian  
 Office about Sarah's passport and Pay  
 Office about another matter. Called  
 on a firm that has been corresponding

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with but did not get an interview with  
the principles. am getting to know my  
way about quite well now. I called on the  
Cocksburts at Hyde Park Hotel but  
found them away for a few days, and so  
had tea by myself. Went to the Piccadilly  
(quite a gay restaurant) for dinner and  
to "Rumour" at the Lyric. It was a  
very beautiful play. Sarah had seen  
it before with Wood.

Thursday 13th April Breakfasted in Grill  
and had Campbell for our guest at  
lunch at Cecil and took him to the  
matinee at the Playhouse, who will help  
Emily by Chas Harnery. Very funny.  
He was then Campbell's guest at the  
Carlton for tea. It was crowded.  
Saw Capt Taylor there recently wounded  
wearing his D.S.O. He is quite better  
now. Had late dinner at the Cecil.

Friday 14th April. The week seems to  
fly. Went to Hill Bros to have breeches  
fitted and bought Sarah a lifebelt  
matinee. She dreads crossing and I hate  
the thought of her going. I hardly know  
what is for the best. Had some other shopping  
and had lunch at Cecil where we had  
invited Taylor but he did not turn up.  
Did some more shopping in afternoon



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and entertained Helen Gunn & Mrs Marks  
to tea at Savoy where we ran into Alice Biggar  
and her husband home on leave. He seems a  
very nice chap. Toots Gunn got an extension  
on sick leave but returns next Tuesday.

Went to Empire and saw "Follow the Crowd"  
These burlesques do not seem to appeal to  
me so much now. Saw Campbell there  
also the Biggars. I quite enjoyed the play  
It is a great undertaking. Had cold supper  
at Cecil again.

Saturday 15th April. Went to Bank of  
Montreal for money but found my Comptroller  
saw the manager, an old friend of yours  
Alice Lindley Oliver who could not do enough  
for me for your sake. I arranged a  
temporary loan from Hinton and Oliver gave  
me what I wanted at once. He asked to be  
remembered. My carer Sarah was not  
with me to meet him. Saw a matinee  
at the Royalty "Lisrali" which I enjoyed  
most of anything I have seen. Tea at  
the Ritz which seemed decent but  
charges very high rates. A beautiful  
hotel. Wrote a line home and to Major  
Seymour also Mrs Blair. Had a late  
dinner in the Grill

Sunday 16th April. Can hardly  
realize the week has gone. It seems

like a dream. I hate to think of returning tomorrow. Sent Campbell £5+0-0. He had a lady friend for lunch at the Cecil. Took a bus to the Abbey which I like better than St Pauls, but I do not like these read sermons. They do not seem to stir me sufficiently. Went to Hyde Park Hotel by tube and had tea with Mrs Mrs Cockshott who were both very kind. They promised to call you up as they sail next Tuesday. Took a taxi back through St James Park as raining. Listened to a very nice concert at the Cecil in evening. Spoke to the Calvins to whose house I used to go as a cadet at Kingston. One son has been wounded but is nearly better. They remembered me one son married Eleanor Mallach. It is late 10.30 so will close until Sunday. I have not opened all my letters yet but must thank you Mother for magazines and papers and enclosures and Father for interesting letter of 15th with shell figures which are very clear and seem to look all right. Called on Wood this PM but he was out. He is comparatively close. Will try and see him tomorrow. Please excuse abrupt ending  
 Dearst Mother very much love Jbb