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Seave to Jouslow 28 Oct 1916

Dearest Mother

9:30 PM Saturday

As I have three weeks damage to
chronicle before Monday morning when the
Canadian mail goes I will make a start
now without further delay. Fortunately I
have my daily notes in my pocket diary so
will be able to go ahead without much
trouble although I rather dread writing up
articles and always think the record
suffers by delay, if such writings as mine
can suffer or be less interesting from
any cause whatever.

Before I start please thank Alice for nice
letter of Oct 7th written on G.T.R. I am
glad the little cross got safely over.

Also Father for his diary letter of Oct.
10th with interesting details. He does write
very fully and it is a great pleasure
to Wood and I to be able to follow things so
closely.

Sunday 8th Oct Another big attack at 4:30
this morning and we stood to all day ready to
move at an hour's notice. Heavy rain, hail
and wire prevented the success we had hoped
for and we did not move. We could not go
away however and the day dragged heavily,
fortunately Father's letter with annual
statement came so I had something to
think about. It is hardly as good as we

had hoped for but after all we have a great deal to be thankful for and our financial position is much improved. "Stand to" was on all night (although we turned in) and until 6.00 AM on the morning of Monday 9th Oct. Sent for my horses which I had left up in front with Leslie expecting to return in a transport waggon when I came back on Saturday, am rather lost without them and Leslie as I have not taken on a new servant yet and have had to do things for myself meanwhile.

Colonel ABC (late of London) called around about 4.00 and motored Smith and I into the large town 18 kilometers away. He knows the ropes there very well and we had a good dinner at a fish shop and quite a lively evening returning about midnight. The French authorities are very strict and everything is closed up tight at nine o'clock but there are ways of getting settled before that time. It is nice however to see a little of French life and Smith was a safe chaperone. The city is entirely in the French area and British officers need a pass to go there. Found a poker game in progress on my return and no mail which is always disappointing.

Tuesday 10th Oct a beautiful day and took advantage of having my horses back and

went for a long ride to ~ in the morning
 alone. The country is rolling and in good
 weather it is possible to ride across country
 in almost every direction as there are no
 fences and very few hedges. The scenery
 is very beautiful and signs of a bountiful
 harvest are everywhere although one misses
 the presence of orchards and fruit trees
 which are very scarce. I suppose fruit
 growing does not pay under the intensive
 farming conditions that exist over here.
 Had some writing outside my tent after
 lunch and until tea time after which I
 took "Buster" my favorite horse (I have
 four) and went for another delightful ride
 about in another direction across country
 towards a gorgeous sunset and back
 by moonlight just in time for dinner at
 7:30 P.M. I rather enjoy these rides alone
 and my thoughts seem to be free and take
 me further from the war and after
 across the water to England & Canada where
 my dear ones are

Wednesday 11th Oct Rather threatening but
 as I had planned to see Wood I ordered my
 horses. Was very agreeably surprised as
 you may imagine by being told by Strawbenzi
 that the regiment had been given three
 "special leaves" and that I could start for

England that night if I wanted to. It was very decent of him to give me the first one as he might have taken it himself. His wife however is in Canada which makes quite a difference. I telephoned Wood and started out at 10.00 and rode hard until after 1.00 in quite a heavy rain. He was out but soon came in looking rather tired as the strain of there is beginning to tell on him. We had lunch together and then a good talk over the E.L.S. Ltd Statement about which I have already written Father. He and McEgan both gave me packages to take to England for them. I had to start back about 3.00 as it is a good 15 mile ride and I was not quite sure when I would have to start.

Packed up a few souvenirs and other things and wrote Gen Carson (for an interview) and Sarah as it is a two days trip from here and one never can tell what delays may occur (as it was she got my letter before I arrived). We took a lorry to ~~the~~ and slept there on bare cots (I did not sleep a wink all night) and caught the narrow gauge at 5.38 on the morning of

Thursday 12th lect. Very tedious journey with innumerable stops to drain line at ~~the~~ about noon. Was glad of company of Spencer and King who got the other two babies. We

had a shave and wash and found our train did not leave until 7.00 P.M. Mr. Hendrich the road specialist of the Corps came in while we were at lunch (He manages the Warren paving Co who laid Talbot street) and offered me a lift in his motor which I gladly accepted, although I did not like leaving the other two. As it happened I gained nothing (except a pleasant ride) from the trip and the others gained us next day on the boat. I had never been through this part of France so it was doubly interesting. I admired Mr. Hendrich very much (he must be about 55) for his broad and broad attitude about the loss of his eldest son who was killed in the attack last Sunday.

He considers we are fighting for Christianity and that Germany is anti Christ and that, he says is why he is over and why he does not grudge his son for such a cause.

We found there was no boat until 11.00 the next day so wandered around ~~in~~ together and had tea. He bought some things for his other children who are in England and we later had a good dinner together and a cigar which cost 3 frs (60 cents) and retired. I was sleepy and glad to get my clothes off and into a bed with sheets the first in over six months.

[No I forgot the 10 days at ~~in~~ in September
sent Sarah a cable which had to be censored.]

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28 Oct

Friday 13 Oct (an unlucky day? Mother!!)

Up about 8.00 and went on board about 10.00 getting deck chairs and seats on the "Pullman" up to London. Spencer & King also turned up. Rough crossing and I was very nearly ill due more to being near a foul ventilation than the motion of the boat. Passed two hospital ships. No stop up to London. Lunch very comfortably on board. Could hardly realize I was over once again. Sarah met me at station looking very smart and well but just a little thin. Were fortunate enough to get a taxi and were soon at the Lyceum. It was very wonderful to be together once again. I like her room (temporarily turned into a sitting room) very much and the tone and surroundings of the Lyceum. Met Miss Scott and Mrs Wilson (vice US consul) who have been very kind to Sarah also Mrs Seddes wife of a Colonel in the RAMC over here and chatted to them after dinner.

Saturday 14th Oct Went to Bank and bought boots and leggings also got measured for breeches at West's as Hill gave me such a bad fit last time. Lunched at Mrs Hipsley's, most charming people and met there a Mr Goring who had (as we later found out) been educated at Hellmouth London and knew the Carling & Beechers and old Logan at the G.T.R.

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28th

Just a travelled and well informed man about 60.
Perhaps Father or Mr Harry Conroy remember
him as his family. Called Mother birthday
wishes and went to "High jinks" at the
Adelphi in the evening. Must say that
these "revues" do not appeal to me. They
lack the sequence and romance of the
old Gilbert Sullivan light opera and
boarder on the music hall or vaudeville
which I think I would rather see. The
jokes are almost vulgar and the plot
and acting too silly for anything.

Sunday 15th Oct Went to a beautiful
service with Miss Scott at St Martin's. Had
to stand and wait our turn until all pew
holders were in at 11.00. It was crowded. We
took Miss Scott back in a taxi and then had
lunch at the Savoy with Mrs Hirst R.N.V.S who
is Whitt's friend, a very charming literary
chaps who has four modern languages at
his finger tips. He was in naval uniform.
We had two tea engagements, at Major
Badger's (Sarah's ex doctor) and the Swyns
Evans with whom she crossed last June. I
was so glad to be able to meet some of her
friends and only wish she had something
more worthy to "show off" to them!! Chatted
with Mrs Seddes and showed trophies and
papers to Miss Scott and Mr Wilson who
appeared very interested.

Monday 16 Oct Shopping again. Bought trench coat (waterproof) at Harry Halls and took my fitting breeches to Hill Bros who were very apologetic. I had to pass them over. Had nice lunch at Dyzart and went to Matinee "Flying Colours" at Hippodrome and am sorry to say I would have been bored if Sarah had not been with me. Went to tea at the Carlton and once again listened to my enchanting stringed orchestra which I enjoyed much more than the theatre. My civilian suit came from Mrs Lancefield and I hardly knew myself in it (for 1st time in 2 years).

Bought a cheap hat and shirt and collars and some will be available for Wood when he gets over. Played cards with Mr Wilson and two American friends of his in evening.

Tuesday 17th Oct Letter from Gen Carson and called on him at 10.0 AM and he saw me at once and was very nice but of course has nothing to do with appointments in France. Col Hood was there also who came to London with the Scathis in 1888(?) General Carson asked after Uncle Jack and your Father. He could not have been nicer. Made a few small purchases (tooth brush, paste shaving soap etc) on way back and we later had lunch together at the Dyzart where the meals are excellent.

28 Oct

asked Spencer to tea with us at Carletons and enjoyed lovely music. Saw Mrs Claude Hill who looked so well and smart. She wanted to be remembered to you all and expects her husband over soon. His father up to dinner at Bolona's where we chatted until quite late very pleasantly. He is very well read and has lived 6 years in Germany.

Tuesday 18th Oct. Looked at some coats for Sarah and had breeches tried on. Had lunch at Paddington and tea in our room very nicely together. Glad to have a day to ourselves and decided not to take in a theatre at night; in fact I was really bored at the last and there seem to be no good plays.

Wednesday 19th Oct Saw "Dope" Morrison who was with me in the 24th but later transferred to a British regiment, at breakfast. He is still suffering from a wound and has 2 months leave to Canada. Lucky man?

Called on Mrs Belts, hoping to get her before she went to her work but found she was in France with Harry Walker who is seriously wounded (but is out of danger) and then went down town in the tube and had such a nice visit with Mrs Blair about which I have written Father. Called at

28 Oct

Bank and had a word with Dudley Oliver who is getting grey and then had a fair "rain" breeze felt to cover knees in wet weather. Spencer asked us to lunch at Royal Automobile Club (where he is staying) with Mrs Jessop a friend of Campbell's and we joined sumptuously. Had tea atlysart of our sitting room and had Barbara Brown of Mrs Wilson to dinner and the theatre "Hobson's choice" at Apollo. A very unreal & silly play. Barbara looks tired but I suppose result of early hours and hard work. It was like seeing a glimpse of London again and hearing direct news. We saw her home afterwards but so hard getting taxis at night.

Friday 28th Oct. Shopped together all morning and had lunch at my favorite little restaurant the "Ball Wall". Had dresses altered and went through ordeal of having my picture taken in uniform (I hated pulling it on). Did my best to get out of it but Sally was obstinate and used you Alice as a lever so I had to agree. Had tea with Mrs Lombard (who crossed with Sarah) at the Piccadilly and liked her very much.

Alex was our host again at a delightful dinner party at R.A.C. and afterwards to the theatre "Chu Chin Chow" at in which a large number of nearly naked women wriggle

very graciously in original surroundings. The Deleys were our fellow guests and I was particularly struck by him and Sally also felt the same. Even the graceful woman did not appeal to me. So I fear that I am getting "blaze" and that Thelma's hold is more charms for me. I would rather have spent the evening with Sally quietly at the Lyssart but nevertheless appreciated Aless kindness very much but did not sleep very well and so got up and read as I knew Sarah was very tired and did not want to disturb her.

Saturday 2 Oct Went shopping again and finished up a few sundries. I have never had to get so many things at one time. Bought a set of hair clippers for Wood who is evidently going to have his own tonsorial work done regimentally. Lunched at Lyssart and had tea with the Clentons (our guests) at Carleton and listened to lovely music again. Mailed three packages to Canada, two to Father and one to Mrs Leslie. Found I could not register them by parcel post and hope they get over safely. Bishop called in evening and washed Thelma to dinner tomorrow. Chatted with Miss Scott and retired early. The week has flown and it hardly seems credible that I have been over that long.

Sunday 22 Oct Had breakfast in sitting room (the only time during my leave)

28 Oct

Intended going to church^{1 2} but am sorry to say
did not. King called about 11.00 and I asked
him to lunch with Bishop. The latter seems
quite well and expects orders to go over again
at any moment. Had tea at Oceana Club to
which Sarah belongs, a charming place
on Berkeley Street formerly a phreatic house,
am so glad she has some place like that to
go to. Talked downstairs until late and went
up for last time but did not turn in until
midnight as our last evening together.

Monday 23rd Oct Up at 6.00 and had a few
sandwiches and a glass of milk that had
been left for me. Left at 7.00, Sarah waving
good bye from window. We both felt the
parting very much. That is the worst part
of leave but the 9 days together were worth it.
Caught a bus and the train at Victoria
and went from it right on the boat and was
in France at noon (4 hours). Sunny
morning and a nice passage although
quite a few ill as usual. Had lunch on
the wharf with Spencer & King and later
tea and dinner. Walked on the beach and
visited ramparts as train did not leave
until night. Met Col Bell who was going on
leave and he offered us his motor home
which we gladly accepted as we did not
know just exactly where our new billets
were. Left at 4.30 PM and found my

comfortable room here with a little difficulty
at 13.00 AM on

Tuesday 24th Oct Slept on a comfortable bed
with sheets until noon when I joined the
others at lunch. Our horses are all in good
stables and men all billeted most
comfortably in miners' houses. Some even
have beds. I have a fire place in my room
in which a fire is burning now and if
we remain here will be much more
comfortable than we were last winter.

Quite an accumulation of mail about which
I have already written. Ran all P.M. so did
not go out and wrote Mather Sarah & Wood.

Two horses died of poisoning of some kind
which puzzles us. Ferris & Robertson
Campbell & Greenly all got military crosses
for their work down below and 15 men
have D.C.M.'s and military medals.

Wednesday 25 Oct Leslie unpacked my sand
bag which Sarah had sewn up. I made
me quite home sick. Brought my slacks
& pumps over for 1st time as always as
well be comfortable as long as we are
stationary. Rode down to the nearest coal
mine but wet and miserable so spent
afternoon and evening by a fire in
my room writing to Father. Cabled
Father about better house roof.

Thursday 26 Oct Motored up to front with Strawbridge and a party of 150 under McEwen who live in dugouts about 800 yards back and work with a tunneling company in the front line. We left the motor about 3 miles back and had to go $\frac{2}{3}$ of that distance in a C.T. which seems so odd after going overland the way we have been doing lately. The front seems very quiet. I did not hear a bullet whizz and only hear two shells all the time I was up. The trenches are good too. We relieved the cavalry of another division. Nearly 4:00 when we get back and quite cold after a 12 mile motor trip. The country is really beautiful and would be lovely to ride over in the summer I am sure.

Got my first letter from Sarah and some papers from Father. Wrote up my diary in the evening. No word from Wood.

Friday 27th Oct Had three court martials which kept me busy all day until nearly 7:00. Wrote Sunday day and we had a bath of a piece at Corps Hq to sit in. Was glad of my British warm. I always hate these court martials. The responsibility of doing justice is one I don't readily assume. Fire went out in my room so I went to bed early. My bed is almost too soft. The French certainly know how to make soft comfortable beds.

29 Oct

Saturday 28th Oct Cleaned up some matters in connection with court martial and saw the convening officer Col Anderson about one of them. In the afternoon Col Strawbridge and I rode to ~~---~~ about 6 miles away and quite a nice town and had tea. The town has been damaged a little by shell fire and is still occasionally shelled. The 14th century bellfry has been hit. Rather wet and miserable but we have to get out and my new trench coat is most comfortable and really waterproof. Stars were out when we rode back. I fear we are now in for our winter cold rain, arranged for with schoolmaster for some French lessons and will see how I get on. Spent all evening by my fire writing up this and did not retire until midnight. No mail due to German raid in Channel. The "Queen" was the boat I crossed on.

Sunday 29th Oct A little late for breakfast made some enquiries about young Walker who was killed down below for his brother. He and 2 others were hit by some shell and bits of all three buried in a blanket in same grave. Only told his brother that he was killed instantly. attended noon tables and had a nice talk with White who is in charge of the squadron during

McEwen's absence in front. The weather seems "settled bad" but and quite cold.

Two letters from Sarah. I fear she is very lonely as I am. Have been writing since lunch and will now get a cup of tea and then ride to post office at Corps Hqs 4 miles away and mail this.

Find it funny that I have not had some enclosures or a note at least from Wood. All our artillery are still down below. It is time they had a relief as it has been a long siege for them.

Thanks very much dear Mother for pictures of Father and baby. I have one pinned on the wall above where I am writing. Will try and write one of the girls during the week.

Naturally feel rather blue at prospect of another winter comparatively in how and mud & wet over here and the fact of just having had leave makes it harder I suppose.

Once again let me wish Father every blessing and many happy returns of 16th. I will cable him later on.

I do sometimes long so to see you all
Ever your loving and devoted son

Itb