

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

Wednesday 19 Jan

Dearest Mother

Just a few lines to explain how I was so long without word from you. Sarah's letter of 6th Jan with your most interesting letter of 16 Dec only came yesterday due to some delay in the mails crossing the Channel. The same mail brought her letter of 14th also with your writing in Ottawa about dear Estelle. I was so glad and relieved to get it and hear all about the dear child and "her kid" as Elaine would say. She must of had a hard time. I almost hate to think of it but now that it is over I rejoice with her and with James. What a relief it must have been to have you on the spot beforehand and to feel you were there all the time.

We are delighted with the name and think it most appropriate in every way. I hope that by this time that they will both be home again and dear Estelle feeling more like herself once again. You have all been in my thoughts very much lately and I hope to hear continued good news in the next home letters. Suppose you will visit Elaine in Montreal before you come home. I am sure she will be delighted to see you.

Am burning it

am running through this as I am going out this AM, and will pass near Wood and send Leslie in with your letters as I am sure he will be anxious to have all the details as well.

It has been wet and rainy since I wrote you on Sunday but is beautiful again this morning and I am going out to take advantage of it. Mr. Ewen goes on leave tomorrow morning and is very pleased about it. He has been over more than four months.

I wish I could give you a little news about this front but things are very quiet as far as I can see and the papers always are a source of news and information to us, even about our own doings. Of course we are all hoping to participate in whatever happens in the spring although everybody says the enemy must be driven back to the south in France before they attempt to move this front. In that case whatever we did would only be holding or demonstrating to keep them engaged.

I am well supplied with reading matter just now and even although not always occupied still find it hard sometimes to read the papers as thoroughly as I would like

Hope you will excuse Robert's note Mother dear, but have
an appointment at 9:45 so must make a move. Dearest love
to all, especially Colella and the dear baby if you should still
be in Ottawa when this reaches you.

Your devoted and affectionate son
Hbl