

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

Sunday 7th May

Dearest Mother

I wrote Father and Alice in the middle of the week and it is therefore now your turn for a few lines. I am just back from a 10.00 AM service at which dear Mr Lewis officiated. He is taking another service now and is then coming in to lunch so I do not expect to get very much more than started.

I've dear letter from you dated April 6th with enclosures also another with enclosures only. I have sent both on to Wood and do not think there was anything special you asked about. I always wonder how you remember your various days so accurately and are thereby able to chronicle them in such an interesting way. I let my diary (packet one) rest a few days so often have difficulty separating one day from another. They are nearly always so much the same. I'll Father his album of photographs came yesterday in good order. I have not opened it yet as I rather expected to have seen Wood then and he may turn up today although I believe Col Mitchell is going on leave and Wood will have

2.

7 May

to take the Brigade again for ten days or
so. After we have both seen it and
shown it to those who would be interested,
I will send it over to Mr Blair and
then have him keep it a while and hand
it over to Sarah on her return.

I also received a very nice Easter Package
from Edna through Sarah. I thought
it very kind of her indeed to remember
me. Yesterday another came from
Canada from Aunt Elizabeth. She is
altogether too kind. Please thank her
so much, and tell her I will write at very
earliest opportunity. As Cocksbutt &
Campbell, of the Store have just had
boxes our mess has a surplus at
present so I will save them a few days.
Nita also received a huge tin box
of delicious peppermint "bullseyes" like we
used to get at Rivendell. Alice
will remember. All Father's most
interesting letters I have already answered.
Wood mailed me a copy of the cable you
sent him on anniversary of VPRES and
I was so glad to learn you had had
a family party at Easter. How delightful
it must have been to have had the
grandsons being together. I long to see
the boys. With dear love to all

Papers from you yesterday and one from Father. They are always so interesting and acceptable especially the magazines. Nearly always pass the papers on to Baldwin.

Will you object if I enclose a corrected address. It does not matter much, but sometimes I think accounts for delays.

Sarah's gramophone has been a great source of pleasure to all ranks. Although she sent it to the men yet the officers get the use of it occasionally and some of the records are beautiful. I had it in last night for a couple of hours when we had a guest.

Monday May 1st. Very warm and main roads quite dusty but we are able to go across country in a good many places which is much pleasanter as dear Alice will know. Rode down to 5th Brigade and saw Gen Archie Mac. He had been shelled out of 3 places in 17 hours and had lost practically all his subordinate staff. 2 were killed literally washed up in their dugout on which there was a direct hit. The shell went through a window he was sitting beside. He seemed quite cheerful all the same and is always very kind. White was

attached to the Brigade at the time in charge
 of trench guides which I supply. Fortunately
 he was up in front and also all his
 men. His dugout was hit also and he lost
 his revolver and some things. His servant
 was just entering the other dug out
 when the shell hit it but was not hurt.

We have really been awfully fortunate
 for although that exposed our unit
 still we have some men on police duty
 at shelled crossroads, as trench wardens
 and guides who are more or less
 exposed all the time. So far we have
 not had a serious casualty. My own
 position is very safe as I am not
 permitted to go up in this area unless
 on duty. They are very strict about it
 too and do not permit promiscuous
 "sight seeing". Col Frank Reed was over
 on a "look tour" last week but I believe
 said he had no interest in going up in
 front and did not wish to ~~go to~~
 He is very wise. It is the 1st time he
 has been over. Please do not mention this
 as it would not do me any good.

4:00 PM. We had such a nice service with
 Major Turner. Cochshutt said it impressed him
 more than any he has heard over here. We had
 "Eternal Father" by special request but I know

5

7 April

that most of the men knew who it was for.
 He afterwards came to lunch and then
 took another service and has only now
 gone. He hopes to get 2 months leave to
 visit Canada ^{in summer} and then return as he feels
 he wants to see the War through now. He
 is sweet about Harold and talks freely about
 him and is proud of the many little
 incidents that he has since heard of him
 and of his great popularity in the regiment.

Tuesday 2nd May. I forgot for a moment I
 was writing Monday's diary and digressed.

There was an excellent concert in our
 village last night given by the "Pena Ashwell"
 Firing Line Troupe of professionals, a tenor
 a bass a violinist and a ventriloquist.
 I made a little speech of approbation and
 thanks and also wrote Mrs Pena a note
 expressive of appreciation. It was really
 excellent and such an enthusiastic audience.
 Mr Ewen is acting as APM for ten days
 and so is away. Markham is also on
 leave and as Shipman Mr Ewen's servant
 had been looking after me I got Campbell
 to come in and I live here in his
 absence. No letter from Sarah today
 but picture her in Liverpool getting ready
 to go on board. She must be lonely as I
 know she dreads going very much not

6
on account of danger in travelling ^{7 May} but
it is hard to go just now. However we
both feel that her dear mother wants to see
her very badly. Watched a football
game after dinner with lockshut. The
evenings are getting very long. Have a
new colonial saddle which is much lighter
and more far knocking around. I have
had my old one since I joined First Hussars
in 1903.

Wednesday 3rd May Out for stables and
joined Campbell on ride after breakfast.
Country is beautiful everywhere and now
that mud roads are drying up there are
some beautiful rides in places that have
been impassible all winter. Some trench
wardens to be relieved today as a result of my
interview with the General. A little worried
by some letters from dear Father which came
today. Sent them down to Wood by Leslie who
brought an answer back and I replied at
length at once and drafted a couple of
deferred letters to go tomorrow.

Thursday 4th May Drapped Alice a fine(?)
Inspected our transport horses and
waggons and harness. They are a hard
crawl to keep up to the mark and have
gotten slack in the mud all winter.
Baldwin is sick just at present

7 May 1916

7

Wrote Mr Blair to thank him for his kindness to Sarah (she had a stateroom to herself as a result of his interposition with a friend in the American Line in London).
 Visited Sixth of 3rd Div. Maimed Troops. He is considerably further away from the front than I am. I tried a few jumps over some of his hurdles. Major Kennedy back again. He had to have another operation on his once broken jaw.
 Went for a walk after dinner in evening with Cuckshutt and Campbell, read and retired.

Friday 5th May. In stables and went on ride after breakfast with Campbell. Sent 2 new & 4 horses to a neighbouring wing of the R.F.C. for use of their officers. Had some jumping and sword work with the N Co's in the afternoon and quite enjoyed although day very hot.
 2 letters from Sarah on train and in Liverpool. Received an intimation that maimed troops are to be taken away from the divisions and turned into a Cavalry Regiment and Cyclist Battalion under Corps Control. Don't know exactly how this will effect me. From a military point of view it is sound and in line with French and German establishments.

8

7 May

Saturday 6th May. Attended my Board
 on Clatus at 1485. Saw McEwen
 with his A.P.M. brassard on his arm.
 Telephoned Ed Panet on Corps staff about
 the intended change and my interview
 was satisfactory. Had lunch there and saw
 Gordon Hall who is being transferred to
 a British Corps and Anderson. It was
 there I heard about F. Reid. Did some
 jinning in afternoon and half expected to
 see Wood for dinner but he did not turn
 up. Blair is for dinner and we had
 a pleasant evening with gramophone.
 Mine from Sarah on boat came with
 same mail as her letter also written
 on board. She should be half way
 across by now if all is well. Wrote
 a few lines to Westchester and retired and
 read a while.

Sunday 7th May. Have already given today
 events in beginning of letter. No ill
 effects from my Amputation yet 5.00 PM
 of fancy it will not take as my sword
 about a year ago. McEwen and White
 up for half an hour and have just
 gone. Just a heavy shower but soon
 over. Looked over photos in "E.L. of"
 shell album and am astonished at the
 changes in the marks and the signs

7 May

of rush and work. It is really most
interesting and I shall be very glad to
show it to our friends. Will add more
tomorrow. Cackshutt's gramophone
for the officer's mess came, a smaller one
and not nearly as soft as the one
Sarah sent the crew. Fancy it was
ordered and not selected. It was very
kind however of his Father and Mother
to send it. Campbell felt pretty miserable
after his inoculation but it did not
bother me and I went for quite a little
walk at 7.30 and watched a beautiful
sunset. Read a while and then retired
Monday 8th May. Went on leave a
month ago today. Felt all right and
went out to stables as Campbell in bed.
Quite cold and saw it raining
quite hard. Cackshutt has gone out
with the ride and I will finish up in
time for the mail. The War
Contingent Association, who have been
very good all along, have just sent
over a baseball outfit for the men
which I am sure will be very much
appreciated. They have sent us tobacco
bags, football and boxing gloves for
him to use during the winter.
No letters from Canada or from

8 May

10

Sarah yesterday and suppose I cannot expect to hear from latter for about three weeks at the earliest. Read Germany's answer to the U.S. yesterday. It looks like another ~~invasion~~ invasion. I wonder if it will satisfy President Wilson. The sun is beginning to come out now and I dare say the day will be nice after all, but will take it quietly as we are supposed to require 48 hours rest after this inoculation which is given all in one dose.

I wonder if Elaine and Estelle and the dear boys are still with you as mentioned in cable to Wood. How nice for you all to be together. Alice's trip to Montreal and Ottawa must have been rather a fleeting one.

I hope that things are running more smoothly at the Works and that Father will not have too much labor trouble in addition to his other problems. Will let Wood see the album as soon as possible.

I hope Sarah is not having a rough passage. She expected her brother Percy to meet her in New York.

Will close now - dearest Mother with very much love to you Father and Alice. Ever your affectionate son
Stb-