

From the holdings of  
Western Archives, Western University

all the cavalry are now carrying.  
It is a very good little weapon and  
can be carried by one man  
although when not in use is  
carried on a pack pony on a  
special saddle. I have improved  
a small range and we are training  
officers and men as rapidly as  
possible.

I have been acting as o.c. Regiment  
since Saturday when Elmsley got  
his Brigade and was made a  
General. I feel I am entitled to the  
command but of course do not  
know whether they will bring some  
one else in or not. Poor Wood  
has been disappointed so often and  
now has again that I have not  
very much hope.  
at present I am hoping to get

22nd June 1916

My dear Alice  
Your long and interesting  
letters of 23rd and 28 were  
passed on to me the other day  
by Wood and I feel they merit an  
immediate reply. Your letters  
are always full of interest but  
I think these two are exceptionally  
so. You must find your fountain  
pen a great help; I use mine  
continually and not know how  
I would have gotten along without  
it. I lost the one Edna & Gerald

are no longer working down in front at night. I  
am sorry to say that Wood is still down there and has  
lost one of his subalterns Murray and had another cleared  
from shell shock. He has also lost about 20 men which  
is a good many for a little over two weeks. I would  
like to see him out of there. I rode down to his wagon  
lines to get direct news so as to end my cable today  
and saw Mc Gann. He said things were much quieter  
the last few days and that Wood was all right, so  
I called this A.M. "both well". We are very busy training  
our men in the Hotchkiss rifle which is the machine

gave me last summer in  
England and had Mc Ewen buy  
me this one when he was out  
leave last winter. am sorry to  
hear you have been having so much  
rain and cold weather, just like it  
has been over here lately. I am  
anxious to get one of your letters  
written after Sarah's visit but  
suppose I must bide my time. There  
was not mail at all yesterday but  
I received a cable from Liverpool sent  
on Sunday announcing her  
safe arrival in England which  
you may rest assured I was glad to  
get. My life since writing you on  
Sunday has been very uneventful  
as we are now supplying a day  
digging party at the dam and

take it on himself; he has become  
so progressive. I feel quite strongly  
about it. I am glad the Ford sales  
are falling off. You are energetic  
about your garden and I am so  
glad that it is proving successful  
I often wish I could see it.

There is a lot of aerial activity and  
there have been four or five planes  
in view all morning. Several Huns  
have also been over and I have been  
watching our Archie (anti aircraft  
guns) pattering at them through my  
glasses. Thick white puffs of  
smoke where the shell bursts, but  
they are very hard to hit and if  
the shooting makes them keep high  
we are generally satisfied. Very  
much love dear Alice your devoted "bro" J.B.



II

some leave very soon and  
am going to take it no matter  
whether I know how things stand  
here or not. Of course I may not  
get it as it is now very limited  
and very much reduced. It is  
a beautiful day at last and I am  
sitting in my hut writing. It  
is the first warm day we have  
had for nearly a month and I  
assure you it is very welcome even  
if the dust on the main roads is  
very bad.

Larry to hear about Jerbs. I fear  
it will make her very unhappy

was ill but know that he has done excellent work  
over here. I passed Arthur Carlyle and Hodgins on the  
road the other day but did not have time to speak to  
them. I don't think the 18th has suffered very badly  
yet and they always make a lot of noise. I believe  
I tried to get a Brigade (and also Gunn) but the higher  
authorities over here thought otherwise, and there are  
a good many Colonels in 1st Division who should get  
promotions first. Am so glad you had a nice visit  
with Adela, she is a sweet girl. Am sorry Father  
did not get a car. I think you should certainly have  
one and I am going to urge it when next I write. I am  
sure you could manage it and I don't say he would

and I do not know that it is  
always the wisest course for parents  
to take too strong a stand in such  
matters. I wonder what Lt  
Smallman's duties at 9.00 o'clock  
at Div Hqs consist of. I think  
all the jobs should be given to  
wounded or permanently disabled  
officers of which there are enough  
goodness only knows.

I think you and Father are  
right about Mother crossing this  
summer. I am sure it would be  
unsatisfactory in a great many  
ways. Both M and S would dearly  
love to see you but as I said  
before I am sure will be very much  
curtailed in fact is already.

I see George Hale's name mentioned  
in dispatches. I did not hear he