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21st Oct
BELGIUM

Dearest Mother

Will start my diary letters a little earlier and although I have had no direct word from you for over a week, have had the benefit of several of Wood's letters which he shows me when I go over every few days. Saw a short one from New York last night written just before you went to Boston, also Miss Jack to Alice, Elmer to Sarah at last, and one 20 Sept to Wood also one from Aunt Emma (I should write writing) and somebody to Aunt Ella. I destroyed most of latter as from all appearances they had gone their rounds. Also two nice letters from Alice (I forget date). Tell her I saw George V. Mitchell quite frequently in Atterpool, the last time was when we had the A.M.C. group taken. Have only seen old Mud once when Wood was over last summer but believe he is still with 48th Btn at Caesar's Camp Shorncliffe.

There is really nothing to write about and fear that my doings for last few days are of very little consequence but as Canadian mail leaves now Mondays & Fridays will do my best.

Sunday 17th Oct Mr. Lewis & Cuckshutt ~~left~~ started on a two day trip down south so as to be familiar with roads if we ever have to go that way. Will send two officers over on another island next Sunday. Took the remnants of

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the Squadron (so many men away on duty)
to church about a mile away. White went with
me. Very nice little service. Saw T. Kelly
Harris for a minute on way back. Rode over
to 12th Battery after lunch and spent a very happy
afternoon with Wood, who is looking much better
than when I first saw him. Wanted me to
remain but as I had expected Stratton (Clerk
for dinner) hurried I back at 6.00 (quite dark)
to find he had not turned up so White Campbell
of 1st Squadron our "lager" until 8.30 enjoying
himself of Cackshutt's cigars.

Monday 18th Oct. Major Kennedy (O.C. Cyclists)
over in the A.M. Went on early morning
exercise ride with Campbell. Inspected one
of my guards over a neighbouring water supply
in afternoon in Cackshutt's absence. The
water supply is for a town of about 20,000
from which a great many of our water carts
are filled so you can realize the necessity
of looking after the springs from which it
comes. White has started a week course
in Trench Warfare which he says is
very interesting. Mr. Swin & Cackshutt back
about 7.05 PM after a very interesting trip.
They passed the Indian Corps' Barracks
and way down and were much impressed
by it. Two letters from Sarah but none
from Constance. Likely some delay in mails.

Tuesday 19th Oct. Did not take a ride this AM. Found sleep from 8.30 PM to 7.00 without effort but really would be better pleased if were occupied and generally am up at 6.00 AM and out on ride at 6.30. Following Balkan situation with great interest from the Times which I find most reliable and maps I have cut out of various papers. Things look bad but the English people have in past history passed through much more serious crises and come out on top in end. I enclose an article for Father which is rather interesting but which I hardly credit also one giving the other side.

Rode into town (about 5 miles) and had glasses fixed saw Col Henry Paine on street who was very nice and hailed me. He looks well. Madame Paine is in England also Ed's wife. Cooler at night but beautiful moon.

Wednesday 20th Oct. Weather still beautiful. Remained in until noon attending to a few matters of correspondence. Rode over to attend a very interesting lecture on 'Trench mortars'. This branch of artillery is being very much developed. They fire at targets too close to our own trenches for our own guns to fire safely at. They had samples of new types and quite a number of German types also. afterwards rode over to see Wood who was well and very bright. He has

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original affairs which is a great asset, not
that my work are not just as much so. It
means a great deal to me around you who are
socially congenial. Another beautiful night
Thursday 21st Oct. Have spent morning writing
(this amongst other things) and am just about
expecting my mail cart which I believe
should be back soon. Parcels up to 11#
are mailed and paper in England send nearly
everything over this way, in several packages
if necessary. Helms is very prompt
concerning conditions. Mail box close
until tomorrow AM.

Later

Find mail closes tonight so will
close now.

Many thanks dear Elaine for letter
of 3rd which just come. So glad to hear
Father enjoys times, am sure that you
she get on well together and have a
happy quiet time. I hope that the
weekly cable we intend sending from
now on will be a little relief and
at any rate will bring us all closer.

Must close with dearest love
to all.

J.P.