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13 Feb
Belgium

Dearest Mother

I think it is your turn for the diary letter and I wrote Father a long letter yesterday which doubtless Wood will forward by this same mail. The week has been very uneventful and I hardly know whether I will have enough to fill more than a few pages.

I had a nice letter from Alice with some interesting London news dated Jan 23rd which I showed to Wood. She did not acknowledge the £90 I had sent to be banked and I was wondering if it had turned up. I also sent Father just after Xmas, diary book no 3 for which I have as yet received no acknowledgment. I hope both arrived safely. Would you mind letting me know if they have not. It is just possible that the Census has delayed them but they should be over by now. I also had a letter from Elaine dated 23rd saying she was expecting you in Montreal, so I presume you still with her today. How nice for the dear child. It is a long time since you have been there. I had a nice letter from Aunt Emma saying she was looking forward to seeing you & I have already answered Father's letters so I will make no mention of them.

From T. Maitland

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also had a nice letter which you can tell him I will answer at first opportunity.

Monday 7th Feb Out on ride. Was president of a Court of Inquiry on the loss of some A.S.C. waggons which kept me most of the day. Took a long walk at 4:00 PM and enjoyed my dinner in consequence. Spent the usual quiet evening with newspapers etc.

Tuesday 8th Feb Honey still in evidence at breakfast and very much enjoyed. Attended to routine work most of morning and rode over to see Col Harrison of D.A.C. about the waggons in the afternoon. I met a friend of Wood's there Major of St John who had been in 1st D.A.C. with him at Valcartier but who now commands a heavy battery. Ran into a poor lost English officer who had ridden from away back to gain a unit attached to our Division. He had had no lunch and was looking in vain for a map location about 4 miles from where it was. I was able to put him on the right track. Colder at night and we sit pretty close to our little fire.

Wednesday 9th Feb Rode over to D.A.C. with Campbell at 6:15 AM to examine the waggons before they could get them out but were not able to locate stalin ones. Had a late breakfast Rode down to see Major Knox of Divisional Train meeting Col Gunn of 24th en route

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looks fat and well and was very cheerful. Kingstone was with him. Had a well out of a cold but

Thursday 10th Feb after a cold bath threw it entirely off and rode back about 10 miles with McEwen and had lunch with Wood. Found them in a very comfortable farm house but their horses were in a mud field which will soon be a bog. They were carrying out a syllabus of training. Wood has just lost Elhat Grene and gets Crearer on his return. He is very sorry to part with former. They move back another 25 miles the first of next week so will be out of riding distance, that is for one day and I would not like to spend a night away from my unit without permission. Am sorry as I will miss seeing him but they expect to be up again the early part of March so it will not be so long. I saw Allan McEwen who looks very well. His face is not disfigured at all and unless you knew about his wounds & cloaked very closely they would not be noticed. Rode back about 4.00 PM getting home about 6.30 just in time for dinner. Wood showed me a bunch of enclosures and I showed him the last ones you sent me from Ottawa and then destroyed them. Received long letter

my Father on my return and was sorry as I would have liked to have discussed it with Wood.

Friday 11th Feb. Wind and sleet for the ride and one of the most miserable days we have experienced. Stayed in all morning and made an inspection of all posts and hills on foot in slicker and rubber boots with McEwen in afternoon. White, Moleson and Clemens down for dinner and we had a game of poker in evening, the first I have played for about 2 years. It was a very nice break and we thoroughly enjoyed it. I lost about 9 francs but we will have a return soon.

Saturday 12th Feb. Miserable again for ride but think a little bad weather now may mean better weather later as January was almost too nice a month to be reasonable. Farmer caught 16 rats last night in a big cage trap in kitchen. They brought them in to show me. They were not as disgusting however as the "body rats" in the trenches who really live on dead soldiers and grow as large as small cats. This is not a joke and they are as bold as brass and put up a fight if cornered. Attended to office work all morning and started a letter to Father but before I finished decided to

and see Wood again so after a hurried lunch
 mounted my best traveller and got over there
 about 3.00 P.M. Had a nice chat and left
 him my letters to finish. Saw Harry Greener
 and started back about 4.00. Heard the guns
 all the way and as I got over the hills could
 see the flashes as quite a bombardment on
 to the north of us which lasted on and
 off all night. We rescued a horse from a
 neighbouring waggon line which has strayed
 and fallen into a ditch at night where we
 found it in the morning with its legs in
 the air. We pulled it out with drag ropes
 but it died today from exposure and lying
 on its back. Wrote letters pretty late
 and retired and had a good sleep.

Sunday 13th. No ride and had my usual
 hot bath. Church parade in a school house.
 The men sing well but we had a Methodist
 parson who said too much. Lunched with
 Ben Turner who is always as nice as he can
 be. There were two other colonels as guests
 also. His fare is very little better than our
 own. Spencer not back from leave yet.
 He must be working an extra day as he is
 already overdue one day. White Gars on
 Tuesday. Went for a brule walk with
 the Emsw and enjoyed my tea as a
 result. A great deal of aerial activity

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moon bright and clear. Saw 7 of our
 men return from a raid I suppose and
 also 2 dead and could hear the machine
 guns working up in the clouds but no
 results that we could see. Campbell is
 now having a hot bath and I will close for
 tonight.

Monday 14th Feb Another cold bleak day but
 I am rather glad to see it and hope this month
 will see the end of it. My men ordered about
 120 pairs of rubber boots last December
 which have just come to hand. They will
 add a lot to their comfort under these
 muddy conditions. They are paying 14-6 for
 them which is a very reasonable price
 considering conditions. There was no mail
 yesterday and no newspapers which we
 miss very much indeed. The sun is
 now trying to come out, and the days are
 getting perceptibly longer all the time.

I suppose that when this reaches you
 you will be back in London with Alice
 and Father and I know how glad they
 will be to have you again. Wish I had
 something interesting to write about.
 Very much love all

your devoted son

P.S. Col Hobbs sent cigarettes & tobacco to all my men
 very kind of him. I have written him but
 you might mention it if you see him