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**Western Archives, Western University**

Friday 13 Apr  
2.45 P.M.

My darling Mother

I have a little more news about Wood and as I know you want every detail I will try and write as often as possible. I had a talk with ST. DE GRUCHY (10th Battery) who hit in the knee slightly by the same shell. They were on their way back from the forward reconnaissance and were passing another battery for which the Hun was searching with heavy stuff (5.9's likely) and turned a little to one side to avoid it. Several shells hit very close to them in fact one just in front and Wood turned to ask de Gruchy if he was O.K. Then another hit about 30 yards <sup>front and</sup> beside them killing a Tommy to whom de G went first and then seeing Wood had fallen went to him (his own wound was only slight). Wood told him as I think I said that he was done for and to look after himself as the

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shells were still falling around. He cut Wood's jacket off behind also his Sam Brown and found the wound very slight in left shoulder. We applied iodine and a shell dressing at once and got Wood in a sitting position. He was unconscious after he first spoke but came to as he was being carried out. Sgt then got some men and a stretcher and walked in with him holding his hands. Wood complained of being cold and Sgt took his coat off and put it over him. He also asked if they were anything on his chest. This might make you think he had been gassed a little (they were gas shells) but if so it must have been before as the shell that got them was too far away and there was a strong breeze.

He was not redressed at his advanced dressing station as he was not bleeding and was hurried in as I have already said in a special ambulance. Sgt going part way with him.

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I am still pretty sure that as the piece hit him on the side that it penetrated further likely to the spine although one of the doctors seems to think it was shock and not the wound. I cannot think that shock killed him knowing his condition as I do and feel sure I am right.

This morning I rode back to the wagon lines and went over the dear boys belongings with Robertson (who is one of his best friends over here & mine too an old W.C.C. boy) I am keeping a few little things that I can use (jacket, breeches, flask, haversack and am sending the others to Sarah who can forward to Gen together with the things Wood had stored in England at Exeter. I will write about them at first chance.

We are still standing to here ready for the next shove. Weather a little brighter although cold and wind trouble. Am very well and only wish I could do or say something to help you dear ones. I'll