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Western Archives, Western University

4 March 1916

My dearest Mother,

Your interesting letter of 15th Feb written in Montreal came about the middle of the week from Sarah, having made very good time crossing and Pat Rice sent it on to Wood.

Particulars about Aubrey most interesting and I consider he has made a very good man provided his own business does not suffer and will still be there for him after the war. I am sure Elaine too will be much relieved to have him in Ottawa rather than over here as I feel that he would have come over in some way or other if this had not turned up. As it is he can help beat the Bach just as well in his new position if not better than if he were over here. I am sure I wish him every success and am satisfied that he will be a very valuable assistant to the Munitions Board, and incidentally will be able to keep E & L's posted as to what is doing. I suppose I will get further particulars in due course but presume they will move to Ottawa without delay. How nice for Estelle!

I see I forgot to send the 10th page of last week's letter and am now enclosing it. It is too bad as it temporarily

deprived me of the credit of having written a 10 page letter.

We have had a more stirring week than usual and although not actually participating in the little offensive to the north yet our division co-operated and simulated an attack contemporaneously. The bombardment for several days and nights was very heavy on both sides. The battle of VERDUN has also been a source of anxious interest and seems to be still uncertain but everybody has great faith in the French and their strategy which concerns human life as much as is compatible with the situation and seems very sound.

Monday 28th Feb. Walked over the rearward trenches of a new piece of frontage we have taken over on our left which we are asked to survey. Capt Humphrey of Lychies was with me. A pretty unhealthy part of the line and very close to the scenes of two very fierce contests earlier in the war. Many signs still visible such as trees cut down or splintered by shellfire and old trenches (some made in 1874) and many little grave yards. Saw them burying one poor chap as we went out. Witnessed a 15" howitzer and two 9.2" howitzers firing