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Dearest Mother
Read Dec 9 Sat 25 Nov
Will start your letter tonight 10:00 P.M.
ask him is going on leave tomorrow and
I will get him to mail it for me
which I hope will save a couple of days

I have written Father rather fully
during the week but have since received
your letter to me of 7th Nov which
was very good time as it came on 22nd

Walter dear, your circular letters are
really all we want and most satisfactory
to all three of us. It does not take time
very long to get around and there is really
no occasion for you to write to each
much as I love getting your letters.

With 2 married daughters away from
home you must have more writing than
ever kids so please don't think that I
expect special letters except very occasionally

I thank you so much for sending tobacco &
jam and apples which although not here
yet will likely arrive in due course.

A whole packet of tobacco one in three
months would be quite sufficient as I
always can supplement if necessary
with some of the issue.

I have never seen Fred Macfie although
I had quite a talk this week with Hugh Nixon
who is looking so well. He now has
a D.50 as well as an M.C. being one

of three Canadian officers with the two decorations. He is the last of the original officers left in the Princess Pats. I hate what you say about the Pabatts, but I must say that I do sympathize with them; it is pretty hard having ones business taken away like that. I must be and write one of them for Xmas. No other Canadian letters this week although this may be some tomorrow.

Monday 20th November. McEwen back from leave yesterday, he unfortunately only had 8 days although was now getting 10. He had taken Sarah to dinner and the theatre and brought me a note from her. Was president of a court of enquiry on an accident whereby a little French boy got his leg broken by a motor lorry. It is a wonder that none of these children are not hurt as they swarm out of school into these narrow winding streets with such heavy traffic passing almost constantly. Had to reassemble the court martial in the afternoon and then rode over to Carps Ho to see the Camp Commandant but he was out. Quite enjoyed my talk with old Barber in the evening and think I am making a little progress.

Tuesday 21st November Reassembled my court of enquiry to take the evidence of

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some French witnesses including the little boys playmate $11\frac{1}{2}$ years old who was with him. These French children are very bright and interesting and usually intelligent. Their hair is always cut short and they wear a kind of serack and in winter all have mufflers around their necks. I am very fond of them and on the average they are much cleaner than ours even if they do boys and girls "pally" whenever they feel like it.

Strawbridge and Lawson went up to the trenches. Drove to Corps and then to another village about 6 miles away and back in time to study a little before dinner. All my horses are now clipped and go much better as a result.

Song letters from Father which I answered and sent out to road. Wrote Sarah a special letter and did not return until 1:00 AM now Wednesday 22nd Nov ~~our~~ ^{our} second anniversary. It seems hard to realize (and we have been together so little during the two years. I must not complain but sometimes it does seem hard to be apart for the best years of our life, but I hope it will all work out for the best in the end and we have much to be thankful for. Naturally felt very lonely and missed Sarah very much. Drove a long ride alone in the morning and in

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The afternoon walked over to see Garrison who is in hospital after being operated on for appendicitis. He looks pretty sick. Had tea at 5 on the way back.

Sarah sent me a nice box which was quite a treat and which I was greedy enough to keep myself. Read your "Cosmopolitan" did Mother what Sarah again and retired rather late.

Thursday 23rd Nov - Wood's birthday and I had hoped to have spent the day with him but still no word of their coming up. Rode to Corps with straw in the morning and had my French lesson after lunch. One letter from Sarah which I answered and sent down by Sean. McEwen has started French I with Barber also. I think I have made a mistake taking 2 hot baths a week as I have picked up a little cold. Believe I was healthier living in a hot or tent like I have been since last May. The room and bed and fire are too luxuries for me.

Friday 24th Nov - Took a five hour ride in a new direction through several quite large mining towns and nearly rode over quite a pretty girl, one of the richest looking I have seen for a long time. I was very profuse in my apologies. The pile of slag beside these mines are tremendous and look like the Egyptian pyramids. There is a little truck

which goes up to the top and then dumps. Some of them can be seen from where we were last spring. Rode to Laffan in the afternoon to attend a very interesting lecture on courts-martial. Saw quite a few I knew including Billy Gibson and Frank Ware and heard that our artillery were on the way up now so I may be able to see Wood next week sometime. Letter from Sarah saying she had had dinner with Campbell and Lockstrutt on Monday. I think she enjoys seeing my old officers and they are all very fond of her.

Col Bretenelle of MMB was over for dinner so I cancelled my French talk. He is quite interesting and was originally in the French Army.

Saturday 25th Nov - Wet day but as I had arranged with Bretenelle for a motor now to go up in front, I set out and did not get back until 4.00 P.M. The cyclists had a man killed yesterday, shot through the stomach and were bringing him behind two of our chaps. Discussed about observations posts but did not go down in the caps, it was so muddy. Got wet through walking back to the cab in the rain but changed everything when I got back so none the worse and enjoyed a hot cup of tea and my French afterwards and again read *Cosmopolitan* in bed. My candle as our electric lights were off.

Sunday 26 Nov

Sunday 26th Nov 11.30 A.M. Have had a walk and will finish now as I expect to have a motor trip with Eaton (late of London) this afternoon and I want White to visit there when he goes over tonight. This will be his 3rd leave so he is only a month behind me after all. It is nice and bright although a little cold. I suppose I should be thinking about buying a few Xmas presents and feel a little guilty that I have decided to do nothing in that way. The face craze has more or less worn off and besides it is harder to get the real thing down here. I hope you will all forgive me.

I am hoping for some letters today. Going up to the trenches always seems to bother me as when I return I have always found that there has been no mail.

I wish I could write a more interesting letter but things are very dull and if it were not for my French I do not think I could stand the inactivity and the loneliness that sometimes assails me. However I am only one of thousands and it would be very poor to grumble or complain. Young Thomas (a brother of S.M.) was in for French and told us he had 3 months leave to Canada. Quite a few get it but their places over here are filled and they have to come back to the depot in England and wait their turn to get back. Won't add more now except very much love
 Your devoted son J.B.