

From the holdings of  
Western Archives, Western University

In the Field  
1/4/17.

Dearest Mother

Your letter of February 26<sup>th</sup> reached me last night and I have forwarded yours of a week before this date. In addition I have received a number of the enclosures that you are good enough to send so at the moment I am fairly well posted as to the various doings at Oakwood and in Montreal.

Am sorry Alice has had a cold but we can hardly go through an old fashioned Canadian winter without at least one. I think your idea of Aunt Emma chipping in with Aunt Tilly a good one. They would have one another's companionship and household expenses would, I suppose, be less for each than if two establishments of sorts maintained.

You are to be heartily  
congratulated on the success  
of your patriotic collection.  
I think the showing a good  
one, both of your district  
and of London as a whole.

Robertson, my paymaster, knows  
transvers of the Bank of  
Montreal and says he is  
a very nice fellow and an  
up to date banker. Perhaps  
he will accomplish something  
in London towards pulling  
the local branch of the  
Bank of Montreal out of  
the net that old Beddome  
drew it in.

I don't hold with  
what Dr. Flanders says  
about conditions over here  
and it makes me indignant  
to think that he should  
attack the troops. An  
expert can read any  
meaning he wants into  
any figures that may be  
published and I am sure  
that is what he is doing.

I think I have only had  
one case of drunkenness in  
my brigade (nearly 900 men)  
since early in the year and  
I have only once had  
trouble with an officer as  
to drinking since I left  
Canada in August 1914.

I am glad that  
Father had a successful trip,  
all things considered. He  
must have enjoyed his  
visits with Clame and Catelle  
but just the same I am  
sure he will be glad to  
get back to Oakwood. I  
have received several business  
letters from him and will  
try and write shortly. In  
the meantime please thank  
him for them and say I am  
agreeable to any programme  
of construction he may think  
necessary either in London  
or St. John.

Since I started this  
your letter also Alice's  
of March fourth have come

4.

in. I quite agree with what you say about Aunt Elizabeth's letters but her nature is so very different from the ideal (yours) that allowance I suppose should be made by us.

Alice's skate on Lake Erie must have been both enjoyable and interesting. It is something that neither Bob nor I ever attempted but I suppose such a thing is only possible a few times in the course of years.

I don't think there was anything wrong with Gordon Cooper. Certainly not the result of any hardships or dangers he has gone through as he is in the Army Reserve Corps.

I am glad Aunt Lily is to pay you a visit. If her original plans were adhered to she should be with you

now. I no had about the letters  
being opened by a censor as  
it means further delay. I  
hear all mail leaving for  
Canada is censored now.

I have read "The  
Witch of Ender" by Raymond  
but cannot say that I  
cared very much for it. I  
should think the receipts would  
hardly justify the cost of  
publication but after all that  
is a very necessary way of  
looking at it.

The weather has been  
variable for the past month  
and the ground is not  
drying up as rapidly as I  
had hoped. It was very cold  
last night and today several  
inches of wet snow have  
fallen making things very  
uncomfortable. The horses, of  
course, suffer most. They  
never recovered from the  
hardships of the summer. In  
addition they suffered very  
much from the extreme cold

6  
this country) cold of January  
and February and now fine  
or six die every day in  
my brigade. These losses are  
serious, coming as they do,  
just when horses are likely  
to be most needed.

We are having a very  
busy time just now, and  
for the next little while  
I hardly think there will  
be any let up. I do not  
expect to be able to do  
much letter writing for  
some little time so do not  
be surprised if I fall back  
on the Field Post card.

Young John Leitchard  
was posted to my brigade  
three days ago and I saw  
him yesterday. (Latterly I've  
had no time to visit the  
batteries regularly). His mother  
and sister are in England  
and unable to get home.  
I think he should make a good  
officer. There are, at the moment  
thirty eight officers in my

7.

brigade but my establishment  
is only thirty five. If some  
don't get evacuated through  
wounds or illness I expect two  
or three will have to be  
sent elsewhere.

Yesterday I went back  
to divisional headquarters, lunched  
with General Thacker and spent  
several hours going into various  
matters. They have a very  
congenial mess including  
Magann, Ted Savage (of  
Montreal) and young Hulme  
Blake also others. I came  
part of the way back in a  
motor car but walked the  
balance as the road is under  
German observation for the  
last mile or so.

With much love  
your devoted son  
Wood.