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Sunday 18th June

Dearest Mother

Your interesting letter came just after I wrote Father last Wednesday and was very much appreciated. It was the one just before Sarah and Mrs Brimlow paid you their visit.

I took the Fathers of the 28th May down to the 12th waggon lines and asked Mr Gann to send them up to Wood with the waggons that night. Mr Gann had just heard from Wood so I knew he was all right - just before I sent my deferred letter which you receive today or tomorrow. I will try and send one weekly while these rather more strenuous times last, although things are now much quieter once again.

Please thank Elaine for her nice letter which came at the same time and was much appreciated and Father for his business letters of May 22nd and May 29th which came together also for several bundles of Landon papers and also the ones you sent. I have received one letter from Sarah telling me how much she and Mrs Brimlow enjoyed their visit with you and how kind you all were to them. I wish they could have stayed a little longer but suppose Mrs Brimlow did not like to be very long away from her own home.

We have had very bad weather this week until yesterday but today is beautiful once

again although still quite cool for this time of year. There has been a more or less continuous bombardment for about 10 days occasionally getting very intense. I believe there was a gas attack on our left the night before last but it did not amount to very much.

It has been rather an uninteresting week and I fear I will not be able to make very much of a letter this time.

Monday 12th June Mr Ewen and I had breakfast alone as the others had been out all night with the working party. After writing to Father and finishing my diary letter I loaded bag and baggage over to Headquarters and had lunch over there. I took my 7x10 hut with me and am now living very comfortably in it. My bed is at one end and I have a small table about the middle at which I am now writing. The hut has a wooden frame covered with chicken netting and then tar paper and a floor which makes it dry. We have been bothered quite a bit by the rains at night and in the early morning but now have a barbed wire fence which keeps us safe from attack. The others are living in tents beside me and no mess in the farm house. Very comfortably and are living very well. We now have tea at 4.30 and dinner at 7.00 and as there are no stables we do not have breakfast until 8.00 AM. I spent the evening

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chatting with Clinsley who is a very decent Chap
in every way and I am sure I will be able to get
along very well with him except that it is hard
to get over the fact that he is an outsider. However
we all get accustomed to these things in time.

Tuesday 13th June Our counterattack of which
you have heard was made at dawn in a horrid
rain storm after an intense bombardment in
which the sounds of the guns settled down into
a steady roar instead of a succession of
explosions. We heard approximately what
happened about noon. The Boer had been
so well pounded that he did not make very much
resistance and what losses we had were due to
artillery fire. Clinsley and I walked over to
inspect the site for a rifle range on which
to use our Hotchkiss guns. It was very wet.
I called on McEwen on the way back and in
the afternoon inspected our signallers who are
also undergoing a special course. Saw Allan
McEwen, Ross and Robertson of Woods Brigade
the Headquarters of which are taking a rest
as the batteries are all attached elsewhere.
Tipton of 1st Squadron up for dinner and
we afterwards spent a pleasant evening.

Wednesday 14th June up at 7.30 and had my
usual cold bath outside my hut in spite of
the rain and wind. I hope Sarah is not
having this bad weather on the ocean as I

know she is not a ⁴very good sailor. 18th June

Elmsley rode down town working party at the
dam and attended to the affire and saw correspondence
A letter from ^{earl} Father, Mother & Elaine also
quite a bundle of papers. Rode down B12th
Battery waggons lines in afternoon to pass the
same on to Road. The clock was advanced
one hour at midnight in accordance with the
French change of time which makes us lose
one hour sleep tonight. Our evenings are
shorter with 7.00 o'clock dinner and we always
retire rather early.

Thursday 15th June. Our fourth day of continued
cold and wet and the roads are getting very muddy
again. Our horses are also suffering as they
are standing out and we have no mats or
rubbers for them in the ~~winter~~ summer. Their
standings are getting very muddy also. I hope
it won't last much longer. Rode down to
working party at dam in morning, about
8 miles there. Called on McEwen in the
afternoon and had a chat about regimental
matters. I have absolute confidence in him
and have no hesitation in discussing things
very freely with him. Spent our usual
quiet evening retiring about 9.30, or 8.30
as it was before the time was changed.
It was quite light and I did not need a
candle to undress.

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Friday 16th June. Weather still miserable.

Elmsley rode down to inspect working party in morning while I supervised the building of our rifle range both morning and afternoon and designed a couple of swinging targets. Rode home by "B" Squadron and had a chat with McEwen about things in general. Major Macmillen the new cyclist O.C. was up for dinner and played bridge with Elmsley Spencer and I afterwards. The first game I have played for years. Quite enjoyed it. A clear and beautiful night with a bright moon. Heavy bombardment going on nearly all the night. Did not sleep very well.

Saturday 17th June. Looked after the range again and finished it in the afternoon. McEwen came appointing Elmsley as Brigadier General in place of Williams who was recently taken prisoner. He had a bad headache so I did not get a chance to discuss it with him. Dropped in on McEwen again and spent another quiet evening chatting. Wrote Sarah a short note addressed to England as I hope she will arrive safely tomorrow.

Sunday 18th June. Elmsley went to early mass and rode down to Corps HQ to see Anderson. Smith over afterwards and Denison of 4th CMA called. He is one of two un wounded officers in the whole regiment. Only 76 all ranks came out of the show two weeks ago. Elmsley back for lunch. He will not leave until tomorrow.

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Rode down to Headquarters again in the afternoon and then made a start at this after having tea in the Mess Room. Elmsley, Spencer, Everett and I had a farewell game of bridge and played until 11.00 P.M.

Monday 19th June attended to regimental office matters and have just now said good bye to Elmsley and as soon as I finish am going down to see how machine gun class is progressing. I can hear them shooting from here. It is rather a lawning day. Damn sorry I have no direct news of Wood but feel sure he is alright as I have arranged for them to let me know at once if anything happened. I am hoping for some Canadian mail today but of course it is very uncertain. The Regiment got a draft of 5 new officers yesterday amongst whom was Percival. I fancy the others are on par with Alice's friend(?). We had hoped to get two or three suitable officers transferred in the field but apparently that is not to be. I wonder if Etell and Elms are still with you in London, I should think it would be an ideal place for them to spend the summer with the babies if the husbands can get along right by themselves in Ottawa. Very much love Mother dear you devoted son
J.H.