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In the Field  
Saturday 24 June

Dearest Mother

As it is an uncertain kind of a day I have postponed my ride until this afternoon and will start my diary letter today instead of leaving it until tomorrow. Your very welcome letter of June 5th with enclosures from Aunt Louisa and Adela also Father's letter of June 4th & 5th came yesterday morning and I was indeed glad to get them as it I have now over a week since we have heard. I have them now before me and will take them down to Wood letter this afternoon or tomorrow. I believe that he has been relieved and is now in a less exposed position for which I am very thankful. Two of Alice's most interesting letters which he sent up to me I have already answered and so outside of a few "miscellaneous" I am fairly well up to date although I often feel I would like to write the Aunts and relatives more than I do but it seems out of the question sometimes. I hope you will tell them this when you write. I notice the clipping about Canadian officers wives in England and think there is a great deal of truth in it, however I do not think that my case comes under this catalogue. I am glad you find our letters interesting as I often feel they must make (especially)

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by reading. I often wonder how you and  
 Alice make your letters so long and interesting.  
 Father has been very good too about writing  
 every Sunday and I wish to assure you that  
 letters mean everything to us over here  
 and are practically our only link with home.

I am sorry to say that my own affairs  
 are not yet entirely straightened out yet and  
 it seems as if they would drag on for some  
 time yet. I was second in command under  
 Emsley but since he has gone do not  
 know whether I am to get the regiment or  
 not but rather think not. I am powerless  
 to do anything as the matter is entirely in  
 the hands of the Corps Commander and it  
 would be a mistake to approach him again.  
 Unfortunately we are "nobody's children"  
 under the Corps while with the 2nd Division  
 all the staff knew us and took some  
 interest in us and saw as far as possible  
 that we got fair treatment. It seems to be  
 quite different with the Corps and I believe  
 that Gen Byng is very autocratic <sup>but very</sup> capable.

I thought Wood would have at last got his  
 Brigade but fear not yet as Anderson  
 took it over last week as MacGarry told  
 me. I feel more keenly about him than I  
 do about myself.

I thought Mr Tidy was an Englishman and

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had come to Canada recently in connection with the shell business.

Am glad you had a nice visit with Mrs. Brinton and am sure you could not help liking her very much. I consider Sarah like her in very many ways. I am glad she had an opportunity of seeing Lakewood and Lardow at this season when everything is so lovely. I am sorry though that her visit was so hurried as I should have liked you to have seen a little more of her and know her better. Sarah tells me that she enjoyed her visit very much in every way and I expect that in due course I may hear Mrs. Brinton's impressions of you all from her own letters. Very kind of Carter to take you around. Please remember me to him and thank him for his kindness. I think it would be a good thing for a good many Americans if they had a better idea of what war means. It looks now as if they would have their hands full with Mexico. It is magnificient about all they can tackle for the present. Wilson's note to them had quite a different tone to his ones to Germany.

How nice for Estelle and Elan to have had another visit with James Aubrey. Please congratulate the former on his promotion when you write as I may not have

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an opportunity for some little time. I hope that Aubry is not letting his gun business drop altogether for the shell business. I see a great many "Foden" trucks over here working on the roads.

Yes you will see a great many Canadian casualties and a good many more between when you write and now. I believe they amount to 10,000 but of course I do not know exact figures. There are a good many we know too amongst them.

I would love to see Alice's garden and the three squirrels. How nice that they have survived and stayed around so long. Weekly printed matter comes regularly and is much appreciated and handed on when the officers have finished.

Tell Father that his diary letter of June 5th is most interesting. Am glad to hear that the new building is progressing so rapidly but sorry that the sheet lathes break and do not seem strong enough for the heavy work. I think he does well in keeping the prices of bales up in view of the advance in price of material. I shall be just as glad to hear that you do not go in for the 8"

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tells just at present until the new plant  
for the 5" is running in good order and  
your output doubled. Thank Father  
for his nice personal letter to me which  
I appreciate very much and as long as he  
feels he can cope with things in London  
I feel that my place is here and that I  
want to see the "great adventure" through  
if possible. I hope that our time will  
come and that if there is a war we will  
be able to take a more active part than  
we have heretofore. I hope too that the  
"goose egg" day is not very far away.

Elmsley was a major in the R.C.D.'s  
before the war and has been on the  
General Staff of the 1st Division for a  
long time. He is a staff college chap  
and I consider him a very capable  
officer. He is now a Brigadier General  
in Williams (taken prisoner) place.

Jamison is from Edmonton and  
knew Mel Schage and the Duncan Smith  
well. He was O.C. Mounted troops in  
1st Division but has now returned to  
Canada to take a position there. He  
was "fed up" with Alderson. Unfortunately  
Wood's are not known to heads, or  
papers that he at present or we might  
both expect better treatment. Jamison  
was in South Africa as a private.

I am now starting my 8th diary book and will take no VIII over to England if I get leave this summer. I am having the one that went astray traced by the postal authorities but have very little hope of getting it. See I wrote up to

Monday 19th June

Rode down to our rifle range where men are practicing with our Hotchkiss rifles and found everything working well under Lt Lawson of A Squadron, an old N.C. Coy. Went for a 4 mile walk in the P.M. as I sometimes feel I am not getting exercise enough. Called in on Mr Ewert on the way back. (Heavy rain again so am glad I did not go out this morning) Spencer was there also so we walked back together. We are about half a mile away.

Tuesday 20th June

Breakfast at 8.00 now which is quite a change from 6.30 with the Squadron and even then some members of the Regimental staff are late. Rode down to see air working party at the dam in the morning. They are making very good progress and should finish this week. Great preparations are being made everywhere for water supply although if this wet weather

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continues I do not think there will be very much scarcity. Called in at my old divisional Staff Office on the way back. There are a few changes there also. Gen Byng passed me on the way back. Went for quite a long walk in the afternoon and enjoyed my dinner at 7.00 as a result. I think I already told you that we had advanced our time out here to conform to the French change. I don't see why it is not done in Canada. It would be so helpful in many ways and make a big saving in light bills.

Wednesday 21st June. Longest day in the year. I always think that summer goes so quickly after the 21st June has passed. Things very quiet last night, hardly any gunning audible at all. Was glad to get a cable from Sarah announcing her safe arrival in England. I see by the papers that the New York was a day late but have not heard the reasons yet. No mail at all and no papers so suppose no crossing last night. Had a machine gun class and butts in the morning. We have a very good instructor from the Cavalry Division with us for a few days. Selected a regimental call in the afternoon and then inspected all

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the Regimental Transport, both 1st and 2nd times. 23 vehicles and 21 pack animals in all. There is want of uniformity at present and the waggons need painting. I will look at them again in a week and expect an improvement. Rode down to 12th Battery waggons lines and saw Mr Sam Robertson. I feel very badly about death of poor little Murray, they had buried him the day before and were making a cross for his grave. I suppose Wood will give you particulars. He was killed when taking refuge in a machine gun emplacement with 2 other men by a shell that (by hard luck) went right through the small opening for the machine gun, which is really little more than a narrow slit. Sent Wood a note. Found it very dusty riding back and had several good sneezes so won't go out any more than I can help for the present, although I arranged to go down and see Wood tomorrow night with the waggons which have to go up every night with rations and ammunition. Recommended four names for Military Medal for "devotion to duty".

Thursday 22nd June Sent Everett (my adjutant) out to visit working parties when they arrived in the morning at the dam and he found all correct. Attended



to office work and sent cable "Both well" as  
 I know you will be anxious these days.  
 wrote Alice and several others. No mail  
 at all again and papers 3 days old so we fell a  
 little out of it. Note from Mrs. Sam saying  
 the battery was to be relieved tonight and  
 would take over a less exposed position for  
 which I am very thankful, so I went to town  
 as arranged. Inspected trumpeters in the  
 afternoon and visited the class in machine gun

Friday 23rd June. Bathed a little with bay  
 fever so did not go out in morning and  
 gave a short lecture in the afternoon on  
 the tactical use of the Hotchkiss rifle. Went  
 for a ride afterwards with Mr. Ewen but  
 got caught in a heavy thunder shower.  
 Changed when I got in. Meeting of a  
 committee at night to arrange for sports  
 on 1st July. Young Kelgan (of my  
 old C Squadron) up for dinner. He  
 would like to get back in the Regiment.  
 Rec letters from Father & Mother. Read  
 Schibner and retired by daylight about  
 10:00 P.M.

Saturday 24th June Heavy rain all night  
 and still hammering so wrote up this diary  
 in the morning instead of going out.  
 After lunch rode down to Camp Hots about

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the seniority of the officers in the Regiment and Anderson promised to send the list to the Base for a ruling. I then rode into the large town near us and made one or two purchases at the "expeditionary force canteen" where things are sold practically at cost to all British soldiers but not to Civilians who still have to pay duty on all English goods and buy them through their own channels. I wrote Sarah in the evening as her first letter from England arrived today. Called on Col Smith "C Sqdn" on my way back. We both exchanged our views pretty freely as we are much in the same position and both have been cavalry officers for 13 or 14 years. There is no word yet of how things are going to shape.

Sunday 25th June. A nice bright day so after attending to my office work I started out at 10.00 to visit our working party and found they had finished the dam and were working on the pipe line several miles away. As it was nearly noon I decided not to follow them and pushed down in front as things seemed very quiet. I found Burgoyne at the old chateau where Woods Brigade Hqs used to be and he ~~is~~ ~~an~~ ~~officer~~ Burgoyne told me that Woodrow had the Brigade and was acting as group commander

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I had lunch with him and after borrowing  
a "tin hat" started out with a guide and  
after an hours walk found Allan McEwen  
in Woods dugout at Brigade advanced  
Hqs and shortly afterwards Wood came in. I  
was surprised to see him looking so  
well after all he had gone through. He has  
not been back once since the beginning of  
the month and has been lousy to make  
matters worse. We had a very nice chat and  
I stayed around until 6.00 when who should  
call Wood up but Hyla Betts who had come  
up from the coast on his "motor bike" to see  
us. Wood could not go back but arranged for  
me to meet him at the Chateau in an hour.  
He is in command of the Brigade and I hope  
will get his promotion shortly. He is entitled  
to leave and I urged him to try and get  
away but he wants to see his position  
confirmed first. He told me all about poor  
young Murray; most harrowing. I wont repeat  
as he says it is all in his diary. He says the  
German dead are still lying around thick  
in front but that most of them are now  
buried. Things are comparatively quiet  
although coming back I had to make a  
detour to avoid a crossroad they were  
shelling. I was very thankful to see Wood

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after what the 12<sup>th</sup> has gone through  
 and hope that now he has the Brigade  
 his duties will not involve quite so much  
 exposure. I found Hyla <sup>looking</sup> very well and we  
 had dinner with Burgayne at the Chateau about  
 8.00. I have not seen him for a very long  
 time. This is the fourth occasion on which  
 he has looked Wood up but was only successful  
 once <sup>before</sup>. I was sorry to hear that Mrs Petts was  
 not very well. He said he thought she was  
 attempting too much Red cross work as I am  
 afraid Jan and Alice are also. Mother dear,  
 please give her my love when you see her.  
 We started back about 9.00 PM and I was a  
 little afraid Hyla would have difficulty  
 as his "motor bike" was not in very good  
 shape and I passed him once on my bike  
 but he finally passed me again and I hope  
 got home without mishap. It was like old  
 times seeing him again. I was able to offer  
 him cigarettes out of the case he had given me  
 which has been a most serviceable one.

It was nearly 11.00 before I reached home but  
 still quite light and a glow in the west where  
 the sun had set about 9.30 as I was riding  
 back. Did not sleep very well as there was  
 a heavy bombardment to the south of us  
 which commenced about 1.00 and lasted nearly  
 all night. It was a long way off however.

Monday 26th June '13 I have finished my office <sup>26 June</sup>  
work and now (11.00 AM) am closing this  
up for the week. I was glad to have seen  
Wood yesterday and be able to give you direct  
news of him. It was very close when  
I got up and has since rained quite hard.  
The weather is very uncertain and I often  
wonder if the bar barometers have not  
something to do with the sudden and frequent  
showers. There are some very interesting  
notes taken from German prisoners in  
our recent intelligence communiqués that  
I would like to send to Father but of course  
they are confidential and not to be transmitted  
outside of the B.E.F.

I should thank you for your interesting letter Mother dear  
and am now forwarding it to Sarah as I don't  
think you will object to her seeing it.

I wonder if the girls are still with you at  
Oakwood. It would be an ideal place for them  
to spend the summer with the "boys". Must  
now draw to a close and can only add very  
much love to all and especially you dear self  
your devoted son  
H.H.