

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

23 July
8.30 P.M.

Dearest Mother

Your enclosures from Kingsville
came this week also your letter to Sarah
which I sent on to Wood. There has been
no other Canadian mail to speak of and
I feel sure that you and Father are
having a restful holiday even if not
a very exciting one. I wish you could
both I have arranged to stay a little longer
but Oakwood after all is a lovely spot
to spend the summer and if a change were
not sometimes necessary one would not
want to leave. I know I often now
wish that this war were over and we
were back once more. However we
must be patient and hope for the best.

As you say in your letter to Sarah
most of the fighting has been further
south and our front, since June, has
been comparatively quiet.

I have not seen Wood since last
Sunday and half expected him to turn
up today but suppose he could not get
away although his Brigade is still
resting, or at least the Headquarters is.
I'm the responsibility of a unit
which I have had since I have been in
this game and I am afraid I do not

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fit into second place very well. I find it irksome although I suppose some less active dispositions would welcome such a job. However I must not complain as I have my rank and get my pay and am in a unit at the front whereas I know a great many others (especially senior officers) are eating their hearts out in England and elsewhere to get over. I see our little friend Hill got a D.S.O the other day for his part on 2nd & 3rd June also quite a list of other Canadians. A Cavalryman's chances of doing anything to merit mention are pretty slim these days and if it were not for the hope of a name some time our lot would be very discouraging.

Monday 17th July. After finishing my diary letter I went around the squadron. Strawbenzie had all officers together after lunch and cautioned them about drunkenness. One of our new officers disgraced himself the other night and although there is not sufficient evidence for a F.G.C.M. yet he is going back. I am glad to see Strawbenzie taking such a strong stand. Took a ride in the afternoon and spent

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rather an aimless evening.

Tuesday 18th July. Have picked a western pony out of the last lot of horses and although he is small he is tough and I think will be better than most of my other horses. Rode him around to "B" Lodge at noon stables. Cackshutt is in charge as McEwen is with working party and White and Campbell are away taking canoes. Rode down to - with Hazard in the afternoon and had tea. It seems deserted compared with last winter when we were there. I bought a pipe for I have as I unfortunately lost the stem out of my old one the other day. We rode back over the mountain which is very beautiful just now. We teased at mess about the French gues at the tea room. Strawbenzie & Cherett went down in front to see the working party.

Wednesday 19th July Rode over to see Col Brutel of the motor machine gun brigade about our range, from which they say stray shots bother them. Visited "B" at Noon Stables on the way back and saw White who was somewhere on the French coast for his canoe

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and enjoyed sea bathing every day. Strawbridge made some changes in Squadron commanders which I think will work out for the best. Took an 8 mile walk in the afternoon to - and back. It was quite warm but did me good. Visited signallers between 9:00 PM and midnight. They were working with their lamps at night and sending over three miles at each relay.

Thursday 20th July. Up at 5:00 and visited A & B Squadrons at morning stables. Wrote to Elaine for the Canadian mail. Rode pony around to "B" for stables. The Camp Commandant, Col Godson Godson was up for lunch and later inspected our Hatching class and then our transport. Did a little tent pegging on the pony. Gen Byng dropped in for a few minutes and as straw was out I had a few words with him. He promised to relieve us from working parties soon to allow us to do a little farming. Had some revolver practice at bottles in the pond in the evening.

Friday 21st July. Visited our rifle range and arranged to raise the staff butt to make it safer. Rode to B on way back and saw Campbell who is just back from a

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course with one of the British Cavalry Regiments. Rode down in front in the P.M. to look into sanitary conditions where our working party is billeted which we found very bad. Back about 8.00 P.M. and very hungry after a 22 mile ride. They had kept dinner for us however and we did justice to it. Ritchie is a dry Scotchman with a very fine sense of humor and good company.

Saturday 22nd July. Wet and misty so walked out to see signallers and rifle range and back via "B" as usual. McEwen still away on working party. Went for a long ride with Strawbry in the back country in the afternoon and roughed out a few schemes for our training next week. It was a nice day and I quite enjoyed it. Had a little revolver shooting in the P.M. and watched the younger officers play baseball.

Sunday 23rd July Rode down to Corps with Strawbry where we were to draw working parties would be billeted. Rented a field to drill in from the Trappists. There are 13 of that order in the French army bought a cheese from the Superior who gave us each a glass of wine. Had a conference of Squadron Commanders in

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Miss Room after lunch and then took another
ride in the back country getting back about
6.00 P.M. and have spent the evening
writing up this letter. We are planning
to put in a couple of weeks training
which is very badly needed as these
working parties have upset things
considerably. I hope that the weather
will be favourable but it still seems
very uncertain. I will send a cable
again next Thursday although there
does not seem to be very much need
for them now. Am glad to see that
they reach you on Sunday. Will
close you with very much love
dearest mother

your devoted son
S.B.B.