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Sunday 6th Aug

Dearest Mother

We have had no mail and no newspapers for three days for some reason or other until today when I received two from you with enclosures and three from Sarah V. I read yours first as Leslie was going down to Woods' waggon line with Peggy who I had borrowed for our horse show yesterday and was returning. and I wanted him to take them down which he did. I then read Sarah's and found that one was yours written on the very hot Sunday which I have just finished reading this moment. It is all I have had [except one from Edna with a hay fever cure] from Canada since I last wrote a week ago today and I was so glad to hear from you. You must indeed Miss Estelle and Elsie but they have their respective duties to their husbands to perform and after all have been with you a good long time. I fared very well on my birthday as your box with raisins and Alice's soap(?) [American spelling, but I fear I cannot say much] also Elsie's with socks and a sweet letter came on 31st and Sarah's with ginger, turkish delight

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and a cake on 28th. I also spend a very pleasant afternoon with Wood which celebrated the day. Many thanks for good wishes and the Tracings, they were most acceptable and my taste for them has not diminished ~~rather~~ in the slightest out here. You know my weaknesses. As you say I am "getting on" in years, and I sometimes now think I am wasting time over here but I suppose I should not look at it in that way. I do hate the thought of spending another winter here especially on the same ground. If I were in a more responsible position it would not matter so much.

It is three P.M. and I am sitting outside my hut under the tall poplars beside a hedge and enjoying a lovely breeze. It has been warm but I have enjoyed it and am quite free from hay fever now. I am going to give Edwin's antidote a faithful trial, hardener and see if I can ward off my September attack. There has been no rain for a long time and the dust is inches thick on the roads but it is better than mud any day. Our great difficulty is water for the horses which is becoming scarce as the small streams

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and ponds on which we depend are rapidly drying up. Two of the squadrons have to go a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to water and may have to go further. (I must make my table as the sun gets around). It has been beautifully clear ^{today} and the aircraft are almost continually "buzzing" over us like huge bees. We saw one of our planes brought down this morning to the north of us ^{by 2 Hurricanes} but too far away to hear particulars. It has been another quiet week from a military point of view although there was a good deal of gunning going on last night. The principal event for us was our "Sports Day" which I will describe later. I noticed about Woods promotion in a Free Press Father sent me and also some extracts from one of my letters. I did not write for publication but it did not read so badly after all. Wood has the Brigade all right and should be gazetted Lt Col. in due course although it takes some time for these things to circulate. I thought he might possibly be up this afternoon as he was to have been relieved yesterday but hardly expect him now. Strambenzie is away

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this afternoon acting as a judge at the
8th Brigade Horse Show. Our Paymaster
Thompson left us to return to Canada
to take a staff job in the west with
Col. Garrison (no Brig General). He
was sorry to leave but was tired of
non-combatant rank and could not
get back to the combatant side. He
looked over a package for me addressed
to Sarah which no doubt she will
forward in due course. It was very
good about Sgt Browne on top of Jimmy
Whitehead but there are so many war
that family have done their share and
made their sacrifice even if Hugh or
Jack do nothing and I don't suppose
the latter could war. Please remember
me to them all when you see them. I
often intend writing but that is as far
as it gets. I have had my hair
clipped and look like a convict but am
very comfortable and when I have so
little in any case it does not matter
very much. Sarah tells me she is
thinking of making a move and I
have been urging her to get away to
the sea as late as last for the
month of August and hope she will.

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Monday 31st July. Up about 7.00 and spent the morning with the signalling and Hatchings gun classes. B Squadron went at baths which are very necessary in this warm weather, but water is scarce; however they get a change of underclothing which is something. Called on the Trappist Fathers and arranged to plough the field we have rented from them for our sports day as the ground is so hard that a fall would be dangerous. A Squadron have to move their billets to make way for a new Canadian Division which is expected over soon. Played a little polo after tea. My pony is fair but bolts when I hit the ball very hard. It gives me a good appetite for our late dinner. Mosquitoes very bad at night but we have so comparatively little to complain of.

Tuesday 1st August. Made a 6.00 A.M. start and spent the morning on an advance guard scheme with B Squadron. Called in on A after lunch in their new billet where they are very comfortable. Had a conference at B later over the scheme and then visited C and returned for tea. Played a

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a little polo before dinner. We feel that we won't have more than a month or so of this nice weather and want to take full advantage of it. Captain Graham R.E. was up for dinner and gave us some very interesting information about the Army Workshops near us, and also about the destruction of one of our ammunition dumps in regt. Very warm at night and mosquitoes bad.

Wednesday 2nd August. Up at 6.00 and worked out a similar scheme with "C" Squadron. General Byng inspected the other two squadrons during the morning and expressed himself as very pleased. Laid out our course of four jumps on Trapnest Farm after lunch and tried Peggy over them. I have borrowed her from Wood for a week. She did not do very well but has been out of practice for a long time, nor would she follow the polo ball at all. Two birthday parcels arrived from Canada from Mother & Claire. Wrote Sarah and wrote out cable which I overlooked last week. I am sorry to say and hope you were not anxious. You must not be if they do not come. Read rather late at night

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as some very good reading in your
magazines Mother dear Especially
Cashefolian in which I am reading some
continued stories

Thursday 3rd August. Simulation scheme
with "A". I will know the country 10
miles or near very well. It is mostly
in France and you can tell the frontier
by the immediate improvement in the
roads. It is a very beautiful land
rolling with picturesque windmills
on the tops of the rises and numerous
quaint little villages with churches
with tall spires. I don't wonder the
French are jealous and revengeful
about the Hun encroachment. I hope this
day will come soon. Conference at 3.30 P.M.
Jumped Peggy over course (of 4 jumps)
three times without a fault, a great
improvement. Smith (of "C") up for
tea and later I ~~played~~ did some
tent pegging with the "A" Squadron
chaps both with lance & sword and
stayed to dinner with them. They
are a very nice crowd and Hazard the
new squadron commander is doing
very well. Wrote Sally at night. A
warmest day yet. We left our
sacks off at mess.

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Friday 4th August Anniversary of
declaration of War by England.

Marching order parade of whole
regiment in the morning. Went down to
Corps afterwards with Strawbenzie.

Was president of two cant martial in
the afternoon and afterwards tried a
few jumps and a couple of runs at the
pegs. Had dinner with "B" Squadron
to which Percival is now attached. No
letters yesterday or today. Read in bed for
a time. My fretting keeps the muscles out
fairly well and I only have to cope with
those that are inside when my light is lit.

Saturday 5th August No parade in the
morning. Visited the Taffel Farm and

arranged for tea there in the afternoon
and 4 litres of cream, also purchased a
cheese. The Superior's are great friends

We have a painted brick wall on
cannons for one of the jumps with some
wooden bricks on top that are easily
knocked off. Mr'Brien & Mr Mullen of

R.C.D.'s and Col Gadsden Gadsden (Camp Amundsen)
acted as judges and had lunch with us.
Sports started at 2.00 and the day was

a great success. Wood will send you a
programme which I sent over to him
to see. I was sorry he was no up.

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but I suppose he could not get away. The Corps commander and two other Generals honored us and most of the Corps Staff but very few from the Divisions I am sorry to say although they were asked. I jumped Peggy in the officers event and she did very well only hitting twice but there were several clean performances. I also jugged and scored a "carry" each of my 3 runs. Our programme was a little too long however as we allowed some outside entries at last minute and it was nearly 8.00 before we were through. Some of the events were especially good and the General (Byng) complimented us on our transport waggon and horses. Wrote Sarah a line before I retired.

Sunday 6th August Church parade at 10.00. Another lovely day with a delightful breeze. I hope your hot weather is over in London. It is now 5.00 PM and I think I will have some tea and ride into town and get some cigarettes from the Canteen.

Later. Rode up to the town that was shelled so badly about a month ago and bought a paper as well as the cigarettes

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and got back just in time for dinner

At first eating there was a commotion outside and we thought when we went out it was one of our balloons which the Bash had set on fire by an incendiary bomb. A huge white smoke cloud dropping down. Just then we saw another, then another. Then saw 10 all over the salient in front. It must be some new stunt the Bash is pulling off. They were obviously dropped from planes perhaps to set the grain fields on fire.

It has turned much cooler tonight and is clouding over so we may have some rain. We are going to have another weeks training and are starting out with that in view again tomorrow.

I think I will retire now and read a little in bed so will say goodnight with very much love
your devoted pop
Jbb.

P.S. When Leslie got back he said that Wood was again back at his waggon lines for a while although he did not see him.