

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

Sunday
July 9th

Dearest Mother

I will start my letter before I go out this morning as I have a court-martial this afternoon and do not want to be late with it like I was last week. I have been fortunate with letters this week and have a good many to acknowledge and thank you for. Your long letter of 19th June came yesterday (8th) with Alice about Mrs Whitt which I will endeavor to answer today but cannot see how she can be in actual want with \$200 of his pay and her separation allowance. I will send your letter on to Wood and ask him to forward to Sarah. I am so glad to hear that you and Father contemplate a little holiday and I am sure the Mother-in-law would be useful. Sarah has sent me your letter of same date to her and strange to say I received it from her several days before your direct one which I wrote was mailed on 19th came to hand. I am sending it on to Wood as everything from you all is of interest to both of us.

Alice's two letters of 13th and 18th also came to hand this week and are so full of interest. I don't see how the dear girl finds time to write as much as she does with all she has on hand and all the work she does.

9-7-16

Father too I see is devoting part of Sunday to writing to us and his personal hand written letters are much appreciated.

His business letter of 13th came just after I wrote him last Wednesday and that of 17th with his Sunday letter of 18th and enclosures came yesterday with yours. Tell him the bank clearings look very encouraging and that I will try and write about the middle of the week and in the meantime hope to see Wood and show them to him. I cabled "BRUNSWICK ALL WELL" on Thursday and hope you get it today. When I say "all well" it means all London & local officers only (not men) of both Woods & my units. I therefore do not think it altogether wise to publish my cables and they might give some a wrong impression. If you noticed I cabled "BOTH WELL" when Murray was killed. My cable always includes Wood and you can rely on it up to the time of my sending.

We have had some very heavy rain and wind storms this week and I fear a great deal of damage has been done to local crops. They are beaten down in a great many places. It is beautiful

9 July

however once again today and I had to leave
the door of my hut open when I was taking
my weekly hot bath this morning.

And I wrote up to

Tuesday 4th July last week and fear that I
have very little to chronicle since then. I
often feel as if I were wasting time over here
especially as I now have practically no
responsibility and yet we are hoping that
our turn will come sometime this
summer, and even a few weeks of real
cavalry work would make up for all
the long wait. In the meantime we
are doing a lot of digging which even
if not interesting is very necessary
and useful. Just now we are
burying the main telephone lines up
in front in the shelled area 6 feet
underground so as to be below a
moderate crater. This seems to be the
only way communications can be kept
up when there is a "barriade" on. The
Bash buries his wires from 12 to 15 feet
so as to be able to keep up his contact, but
then he always goes one better than we
do. Revised full marching order tables in
the morning and got one out for the 20
cyclists who are with us. Glad to hear

9 July

a little good news from the south. We expected too much perhaps after the success of the Russians. Capt Ball of Woods Brigade came up for lunch and had to remain to afternoon tea as we had a most terrific thunder storm and he had no coat. He is a very nice chap from St Catharines and now has a battery. I went for an hour's walk after and was heart sick to see the damage done to the standing grain, a lot of which I am sure will not come up again. Fortunately they reap by hand and can save some. Talked regimental matters over with Strawbenzie in evening.

Wednesday 5th July. My application for special leave was refused which naturally made me feel a little blue as I was to have had it about two weeks ago but they asked me not to go until Strawbenzie came and now it is too late. However one must expect these things over here.

We inspected a new bucket for the automatic rifle which Spencer has made as the present one is an abortion. I think it should work very well. Arranged for an exam in signalling tomorrow and inspected waggon and

9 July

pack animals fully loaded in the afternoon at B' Sqdn Hqts. Late Father and Sarah in the evening and retired about 11.00 P.M.

Thursday 6th July Spent the day with our signallers and carried out a thorough examination in station work. We were able to transmit a message visually over 6 miles with fair rapidity. A nice bundle of papers from Father and magazines from Mother. Strawbridge inspected our transport in the afternoon, following up what I had started.

Friday 7th July Windy and wet. Prepared some lectures in pioneer work which Strawbridge wished me to give all morning. Letters from Father and Alice. Rearranged transport details on paper with Spencer.

Arranged to rent a field in which to graze our horses. 80/- for about 2 acres until end of August. Rode down to inspect working party at "Shapnel corner" where they are burying telephone wires at 7.30 P.M. Did not get back until 1.00 A.M. Found them working hard on task work and, as there were a few shells coming over while we were there, you may best assume they "went to it" as a six foot hole

9 July

gives some protection. Heard that Wood had been relieved and gone back to the waggon lines for which I am very glad.

Saturday 8th July. Another beautiful day. Inspected the Hatchhuss classes in the morning and attended stables at "B" Squadron. White is away taking a machine gun course. Letters from Father Mother & Alice: Looked up my engineering notes all afternoon and read a three day old newspaper. Went for a walk alone in the evening. I had expected to be in England tonight. Looked up my court martial case for tomorrow. Our signalling officer young Emery from Ottawa arrived, a very nice little chap indeed.

Sunday 9th July Has been a perfect summer day and one of the clearest I have ever seen. Took Emery around in the morning and he went over our signalling equipment. Tried some revolver shooting and broke the bottle on the third shot. Had an early lunch and rode 8 miles to my court martial which took me

9 July

all afternoon. Got back just in time for dinner and found that Wood had been up and taken tea with Straburgie but would not stay. I am sorry as I wanted to show him Father's letter before I closed this. It is now getting too dark to write (9.30 PM) so will close in the morning.

Monday 10th July Another beautiful summer day. I hope we have a good many like it. There was a good deal of gumming last night and I foolishly left my door open and the mosquitoes bothered me. I have some cheese cloth over the windows which keeps them and the flies out very well. I do not know just what I will do today but likely will visit the working party tonight if it is not raining. I am afraid this is rather an unsatisfactory letter but I do not feel in the mood for writing and have a good many letters to answer.

I am wondering what your plans for the summer will be and if the "marrieds" and babies will spend the summer at Oakwood. How could they be more comfortable except for the absence of their husbands.

your devoted son Jbb.