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Sunday 13 May

My Darling Mother

at last on Friday 11th and again yesterday some letters written since the sad news which made my heart ache so far you as well as Father Alice and the dear marrieds although so far only yours of 16th 18th & 22nd received and a lot of welcome enclosures from dear Alice. I also have letters from Uncle Jack, Aunt Emma, Stilly and Aubrey but fear it may be some time ere I can answer as I have already written Uncle Jack & Aunt Emma. Thanks also for order of Service for dear Wood of 15th, a week after. It seemed such a fitting tribute and am sure all that were there voiced their deep sympathy by their presence. I cannot say anything to comfort you I fear and can only pray that you will be given grace and strength to bear it. I thought some of dear Estelle's thoughts were beautiful and displayed a side of her sweet character I never before fully appreciated. I will likely hear from them all later on.

I felt from the first you would be every detail and have held nothing back that I can think of.

hope that by this time you will have received most of my letters and if there is anything more I can find out I will be reluctant to write and will endeavor to answer any questions. I am sure Wood wrote you after 28th and think he mentioned it in his diary. I do hope it reaches Father safely as it gives his inner thoughts very fully and I know will be a great comfort. I am keeping the registration receipt very carefully, and enclosed a note to the Censor in case it was opened explaining the circumstances and the need of your getting it.

If you may not like my having retained a few of his things, especially clothing and will cable you next week end about them, apparently his things have not all reached England yet but I will soon know as I get special leave and start for England early tomorrow morning and will try and get them dispatched as quickly as possible.

Will write the States office today to get them together and trace any packages that have not turned up. I can hardly bear to read your dear sorrowing letters again but must

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brace up and do so and answer everything.
 I am sorry I gave you all the mis-
 impression that I was at the funeral but
 see that it was my fault as of
 course "full stop". For my wife was
 not transmitted. I have explained
 however how we were in action all
 that week and that I could not leave
 my command. I feel you will
 understand that it was out of the
 question and that like one of my
 brave fellows who recently had his
 only brother shot by his side, had
 to carry on and do my part. I
 fear some of my letters that week may
 have been a little incoherent but
 conditions were trying and I had a lot
 on my mind. Please forgive me if
 they did not express all I felt for you
 know only too well that Wood was part
 of my life as well as my only real
 friend and as you say life companion.
 It is a great pleasure to feel that we
 never had a quarrel and more
 especially out here we have been
very close to each other and found
 great comfort in the few hours
 we were occasionally able to
 spend together. I must I had seen

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more of him but of course our duties
 kept us apart and sometimes felt
 when free myself that I should not
 encroach too much on his time. You
 will see in his diary how he refers
 to our visits. It is a beautiful
 record of an unselfish useful life
 to have found so full of humor to those
 that understand him. yes I remember
 "Sir John Moore" and could repeat it even
 now. It is strange how one's childish
 ideals cling to one. We always wanted
 to be soldiers as you may remember
 and always loved horses even from
 the "Joe Bill" days, but little did we
 think that one of us should meet
 a soldier's end like our, dearest brother
 that we are proud of, and I believe
 the dear boy might have chosen
 it, had such a choice been in his
 hands. He often said to me that it
 was hardly likely the four of us
 (me Evans) would all get back. I see
 Russel Brittain & Stan Waldron,
 the former also an artillery brigade
 commander who had returned a
 short time ago, "killed" in today's list
 the latter was in our class at W.M.C.
 This now makes six I think

Knight, Flagg Campbell(?) Lucas
 Leonard W. & Waldron. Tell you the
 old college has sent many of the best
 over here and they have played the
 game to the bitter end. Some classes
 had had 15 or 16 killed.

Yes Wood was delighted when he heard I
 got the Regiment as I always discussed it
 freely with him. I wish he could have
 lived to see us "go over" as many of his
 officers & men did. We passed through
 his brigade and beyond his forward
 observation office who was in the
 German gun pits to which we
 returned after our "run". It is
 strange would have meant more to
 me than the Army Commander's
 letter or any decoration, not that
 I expect any.

Funny I have not dear Father's
 letter yet as you say on 16th he
 was writing me. I do hunger now
 for your dear letters. I do dearest
 mother wonder sometimes how
 it will end, but we must not let
 up and "all are needed" and we must
 be prepared to make every sacrifice
 for sake of your grandsons and
 generations to come who must

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has saved a reputation which is invaluable
 if Germany is not absolutely broken.

I will be glad to see all Parsons
 papers about Him when they come.
 I thank darling Mother for all
 loving sympathy. It does help so. My
 heart bleeds for you all, and you
 especially and wish I could comfort you
~~but~~ I thought that love such as
 existed between Wood and us all is of
 the spirit and not of the body, and that
 as the spirit is immortal and ever
 with us so must such love be
 immortal and with us even now
 has been a comfort and consolation
 to me. I feel dear Wood is with us even
 now and feels for us in our grief
 and yet rejoices in his victory and
 great reward. You have been a
 brave soldier, Mother to us and we
 after talked about you and how
 wonderful you were never to
 complain or let your feelings
 get beyond what we and you
 thought our highest duty, and
 thought it has been to be apart
 so long.

Yes the dear grandsons and their
 sweet mothers will help. Hope
 they are with you now. Love I'll

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I thought I heard old Sean very slow but Leslie
 with Mack's cane (which he got for me
 from the boy) for me to take over tomorrow
 I have asked as many as possible to
 write and know some have. His
 praises have been sung on all sides but
 so well deserved. I only hope Sean
 leave as clear and brilliant a record
 behind me. The Robertson knows
 more of him personally the last year
 than any one. They were very close.
 Would suggest your keeping up a
 short correspondence with him. He
 will see you I know when he gets
 to Canada. Mr. Gamm is on Friday
 for a few minutes. He wants a
 picture which I will arrange.

Don't understand cable messages
 with his words to De Bruchy. I
 might have sent them.

Sean is slow but will write on
 far tomorrow's mail and finish
 diary letters to day. God bless
 and comfort you all
 Jff

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Saturday 12th May. Very hot and sultry.
 Rode 10 miles (but slowly) and endeavored
 to do justice to three poor devils up for
 court martial. Worked in a cellar on a
 box and carried on without lunch as
 wanted to finish in case I get leave
 for 14th which is day I applied for.
 Had to adjourn one until tomorrow
 for further evidence.

Saw Camp Commandant about delay
 2 months in my gazette and we
 decided to write and make other
 promotions provisionally. He put me
 down for special leave for 15th and
 June 1st and arranged for a
 side car Guy M.M. G.B. who are
 very decent about it and secured one
 for Monday and will go down a day
 ahead in hope of getting over
 although Shahmurti got away
 with it yet although lots do.

Walked up to forward Squadron
 "B" and drank 2 cups of tea and
 spent an hour with the Gunn looking
 over his horses which are doing
 well. He has none sick!!! Got
 Hqs mail which now goes there
 and rode the "Wabe" slowly home
 as very sultry.

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Read four Darling Mothers letters
and the Times. Make Sarah in case
I don't get off after all. One is never
certain and entered diary today. Read
Times on bed without covering as still
sultry although trying to rain.

Sunday 13 April "Mothers Day in
Canada"!!! Have thought of Her so
often. Beautiful dawn with every
green and summer like. Had hot bath.
Must get new BOV's as mine, some
dating to 1915 nearly done. Rode to
to finish court martial and was glad
to "honorably acquit" the accused.

Some of my officers let their groans
turn out disgracefully dirty. Why
should I be so puffed about these
little things but they do irritate me,
and yet I hate to "bag". Perhaps I am
getting old, but only wrote a ~~short~~ ^{preparatory}
note about it to the Squadron
Commander and kept my thoughts to
myself. Back for cold lunch

Cold ^{meat} pie, very nice and quite enough.
Sent Leslie to IRE for wood case,
and arranged with Mimi about
flowers for grave and for a mess cart
to take them over at 8.00 PM tomorrow
with McKay who was with me as

a guide. Hope they are in time for picture. He will change the fair time to time during summer and grave diggers will water. Will let you know later how it looks. Will get little brass plate when in England and screw it on to cross.

Cleaned office up after lunch and planned week's work with Smith. Leslie back with care. Side car here ready for tomorrow and leave warrant also to hand. Will start at 6.00 AM and avoid traffic and allow for accidents.

Have been writing here ever since and just sent leg up with first installment. Must go over papers tonight and take over what I can. Have no souvenirs as when chances good don't seem to be able to think of them, so will let the ASC and soft chain chaps in rear depart them after the war. They can easily buy them. What few I have were actually picked up on lay-off prisoners.

Mail put with Harwood's sermon will read it later but must get down for 'high tea' and summer institution.

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Mother Darling

am a little worried about you being ill but am glad you told me, do be careful and we all need you so now and I think I do more than anyone!! I hate to think of you being miserable and so wish I could see you.

Grandma & Aubrey have been so helpful. They are such fine chaps and have made us all so happy. Wood & I often have talked about them and it meant to us to have two such men in the family.

So sorry about poor Tom's baby will write her as frequently as I can make than ever how a few words of loving sympathy help.

If Daddy Lachie should be with dear little Sally, who tells me today her hair is getting so white (half apologetically as if it would matter) I must I could see you all if only for a few days. Things are quiet here now. What it means I cannot say.

So much love
J.H.