

From the holdings of  
**Western Archives, Western University**

BRITISH OFFICERS' CLUB

15-V-17  
noon.

Dearest Mother

I have been held up here  
a day waiting for my boat and  
don't know whether I will get  
away today or not as it is very  
foggy. Of course I get the time  
I have added on to my leave  
but I hate this place and the  
wait is very tedious especially  
under present strained conditions  
and I know it will be hard for  
Sarah too; however this is war  
and we should be used to these  
little things by this time and  
after all I am very lucky to  
get this special leave at all

BRITISH OFFICERS CLUB

as it has not opened up yet for  
our Corps although quite a  
few seem to be getting over

I came down on a side car  
yesterday morning in 3 1/4 hours.  
Got up at 5.00 and started at  
6.00 to avoid traffic and have  
plenty of time in case of accident  
but we had none. It was an  
ideal morning after a good rain  
which had laid the dust and I  
quite enjoyed it chatting to my  
rider beside me who was a  
very free and easy individual.

I gave him 10 francs and told  
him to amuse himself here  
the rest of the day, and know  
be very glad of the change. us

## BRITISH OFFICERS' CLUB.

as it was the <sup>2</sup> first time he had  
been in ~~the~~. Found the  
boat did not go so have tried  
to put in the time as best I could.  
Buying a couple of French novels  
for diversion as I do not seem  
able to read anything substantial  
under present ~~present~~ circumstances.

Had Harwood's sermon in  
my pocket and was very very  
touched. It is a very beautiful  
tribute to the dear boy, but how  
well he deserves all the honours  
we can give him. I am going  
to show it to Mrs Betts if I see  
her and Mrs Allport who likely  
knows Harwood. Please tell

BRITISH OFFICERS' CLUB  
him how much I thought of it  
and say I was going to answer his  
letter very soon. wrote Elaine  
and her (Holmes) yesterday, the  
letter wrote such a nice letter to  
me.

Saw Frank Ware who said he  
had been over to put a wreath on  
the grave. He is going back to  
England as Lt Col with 5th  
Lusitania, head of A & Q staff.  
a very good position, and I am glad  
that he has at last been given it.  
He has two decorations D.S.O. &  
a foreign one for good work  
although he has never done any  
actual fighting; so these things  
go but I don't grudge them to  
him although I think that

## BRITISH OFFICERS' CLUB,

D.S.O. is now worth very little so lavishly have the staff (including A & Q officers) decked themselves with it.

I am rather proud on some occasions to have nothing.

Have just run into Geoff  
 O'Brien (Father's old friend's son)  
 who used to be with my Cyclists  
 and is now with R.F.C. so I will  
 have a nice congenial companion  
 on the way over. He is now  
 flying machines across and  
 taking boat back and has been  
 married since he left us.

Tell Father I spent a couple  
 of hours in a ship yard this  
 morning also in boiler and

BRITISH OPTICIANS CLUB  
Machine Shop and don't think  
we can show the French very  
much although this was a  
comparatively small concern.

They cut all their plates by  
optocalypic and I saw 5 feet of  
1" plate cut in 10 minutes. I will  
buy later and sketch the jig  
They used far holding and  
traversing the light. It was very  
simple and efficient.

and having your letters this  
week sent to England so will get  
them and try and write when  
over

Nearly lunch time and I must  
not keep Bixens who is taking it  
with me very much love  
John