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Sunday 18 March
4.00 P.M.

My dearest Mother

As there has been no Canadian mail since last Sunday I have no letters or papers to acknowledge this week. A letter from Hazel Abbottson however came last night and may be a forerunner to some today or tomorrow.

Also I had a letter from Evan who was still in England when he wrote and I heard that Edward was with 2nd D.A.C. and may be able to look him up this week. Although I am glad to say that I am a little more laid down now that I have taken over command of the "Canadian Light Horse".

I have not been gazetted yet and it may take some weeks to come through but I have no doubt that I will get the regiment, and as I said last week feel very glad to have at last come into my own. It is also some compensation for Channing waiting so long and for having stayed with the game.

As I told Alice I will likely cable the word "gazetted" when it does come through and it would then do no harm to put a little note in local papers about it.

Had a letter from Wood before I cabled on Wednesday but have not been able to see him for nearly 3 weeks but will try and get up soon. I fear he is not very comfortable in his new quarters.

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Sunday 11th March after writing my diary
later I went down to old Barbier and then
hurried to our mess and saw to preliminaries
for our farewell dinner to Strambenzle at
which we had all the original officers of the
three squadron (13 in number P.I.). We had a
cocktail, soup, chickens a sweet and a brandy
liquor and coffee. I proposed his health and
wished him good luck and he replied very
nicely and thanked us all for our support.

We sat around for a while and finally ended
by playing poker until 3.00 AM with
disastrous results for yours truly. However
I am very glad we gave him a good send off.

Monday 12th March Dawson motorcycled
up in Port. to see about the relief of our men
in the trenches by General Hill who used to
command the 1st Bn in which Campbell
Becher was. I rode over to see a piece of
ground on which we have permission to
drill when the men come back. Felt
sleepy after lunch as I keep such regular
hours that I feel sitting up late. Went for
a walk and later went down to old Barbier
as usual. Straw took dinner at Carps
Hqts but later spent an hour in my
room discussing regimental matters
promotions etc and also thanked me for
my support all along.

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Tuesday 13th March. Straw left at 9.00 A.M. in a motor car with all his belongings having sent 5 horses down the day before and took over the command and spent the morning in the office getting in touch with things there and later visited stables but nearly all the horses out as we had sent 22 horses up for allow. French party who got back before sunset. Had a long talk with the three squadron commanders in the afternoon and later went far and by myself on the pony. No Canadian letters far over a week although the English mail much quicker and more regular; I suppose on account of leave being off. Barber and read until midnight as usual.

Wednesday 14th March. Found all our men looking pasty and worn after the long journey () in the cave up front where the air was bad and only candle light. However I hope the change here will soon pull them up. A lot have bails ask trouble from too much "bully" and pork and beans and no potatoes or fresh vegetables, and all are "lousy". Ran in afternoon but walked to and met Claude Hill on the way back. He looks very well. Note from Wood on my return so cabled "Bath well".

Thursday 15th Mar. All the men from the trenches had baths and some clean clothes although the supply ran out before they all got them. Decided to cast fire sticks and injured horses as no longer any use to us. Took a two hours ride and saw a German prisoners camp (500 of them) and also a new railroad warehouse building in rear. A beautiful day with spring in the air and birds singing. Two letters from Sarah but no Canadian. Barber at 6.00 P.M. and read the "White Company" in the evening.

Friday 16th March. Had arranged to go up in front with C.O. of Motor Machine Gun Brigade but he could not get a car. Would have seen Wood if I had. Squadrons out for a route march and worked at saddlery in afternoon which is in bad shape. Took another long ride through a beautiful wood part of which is being already cut down for military purposes.

The M.O.'s birthday and he treated us to chicken and oranges and also had two of his friends for dinner. Sent old Barber some "furnier" for his garden. He is such a decent old soul and we all like him.

Saturday 17th March. St Patrick's Day and a Revolution in Russia !!!

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and the U.S. still holding back because the American ship that was sunk without warning was NOT armed. Wilson will next stipulate the exact position on the ocean where the Hun must sink an American armed ship without warning be in order to commit an "overt" act!!!

Had our first real mounted drill since last summer. Beautiful day and ground wet and dry. Inspected 12 dismounted men we have to again send up but we can spare them better as we now carry 100 extra men all the time. Had a dismounted drill in the P.M. and I later went for a 4 mile walk. Two letters from Sarah. Read Much of Endor in evening.

Sunday 18th March Had back and at 10:00 had our first church parade since last August. Mc Green took it for us and I think all the men liked it as I had no mounted parade and am giving them a half holiday this P.M. Inspected our rations and spent some time in the office and have been up here since finishing the paper about Russia. I do hope you are all well and good news from the Schaffs office. Won't add more dearest Mother
your loving son Eth