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Sunday
17 April 17
6.30 PM

Dearest Mother

Am a little late starting my letter today as Smith and I look an afternoon off and rode into ~~the~~ for tea and are only just back. It was alternately wet and sunshiny but the change did us both good and we enjoyed it, and the pastries and chocolate were very good. I tried to buy some raisins (my failing) but the price was too high 3 francs per kilo so I refrained as I drew rather heavily on my account last month.

No letters since last week's budget which I have already acknowledged and Father's which I also have answered. I forgot one bundle of enclosures from your Mother dear which I sent on to Wood and a nice letter from Elaine thanking me for little \dagger which I am glad she liked. I have a bundle of what look like large photos from Father but reserve them to look over this evening after dinner.

Rather an uneventful week although with most of the men back and a little training going on there is always more interest and something to look after. Telephone road out before I cabled.

Monday March 26th. "A" Squadron broken up, one troop going to each of the four divisions for police duty and traffic control. Inspected them all before they moved off after lunch but was not very pleased. However it was raining hard and some men had only returned at noon from conducting horses so did not say very much. Walked to — in the rain. Wrote a letter and chatted with Barber. Miss the supply of papers and magazines from Canada although two bundles of newspapers and one Life did arrive. However that will likely all turn up soon in a bundle as so far all letters have come to hand.

Tuesday 27th March. Still cold, wet and raw. Out on drill ground where Smith is superintending the direction of 3 jumps on which to school our new horses given. Signed the court martial papers for one of our officers and attended to other office work. Visited stables at noon and dismounted parade after lunch and spent rest of afternoon quizzing Elizabeth on Hair Table to suit our new establishment which apparently had never been done under old

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regime and which is very necessary for a check on stores issued and in order to maintain any standard of economy.

Seven letters all at once which takes up a little. Talked to Rockham in evening who is a very nice chap. He comes from Peterborough originally and knows a great many of our mutual friends in London & Toronto. He says he was very nearly one of James' ushers.

Wednesday (28 March). Inspected one troop of B which is going as police to the Corps A.P.M. and found them turned out in better shape. Very bright morning but too slippery for jumping.

Inspected all the messes at 11.00 and found some very dirty; also visited all cook houses and messes also the three squadron canteens which make a profit of about 200 francs per month all of which is spent on luxuries and potatoes (when they can be bought for the messes). Chocolate, cigarettes and beer are the chief things sold and from which most of the revenue is derived. Walked to P.M. and wrote Father a long letter at night also sending cable.

Thursday 29th March In early and left
 for trenches with Col Watkins of C.M.M.G.R.
 Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade at
 8:30 in a lorry. It took us two hours
 to get up largely due to congestion of
 traffic and the circuitous route we
 had to follow and by the time we got up
 a steady rain prevented our ~~seeing~~
 seeing the enemies lines and back
 country the way we wanted to from
 the positions to which we look for.
 However I know the way now and
 will get up again on first favorable
 opportunity. Saw one fox that
 hit by a shell that fell near us
 but we were sending over 10 to 1, also
 saw a thing I had never seen before
 that is a dead horse in a communication
 trench over which we had to climb.
 Had a couple of sandwiches and was
 glad to get back and change about
 5:00 P.M. Spent my light breeches
 with the mud although it may
 brush off when dry. Went down to
 Barbier for an hour chat and
 then read in mess and later in
 my own room until midnight.

Friday 30th March Heavy rain but
 we drilled all the same and it cleared
 and the welcome (but very rare) sun

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came out about 10:30 A.M. Every man
is now put over the jumps each
morning and it is rather fun watching
them. Most of our old chaps are
fairly good at it but some of the new ones
are very green and jerk their bases
mouths which of course always
raises my ire. Attended stables
and worked at M.S.T. with Spencer
in the afternoon. Recommended two
of our men for commissions and
gave one of our junior officers a
lecture talking to at the request of his
Squadron Commander. Got Sarah
as no word from her for over a week
and went down to Barbier as usual.

as Wilkins and Hunt coming for
dinner must rush down left
will mail this so as to get boat
and finish tonight

Lane
Jbb

1-IV-17
10:30 P.M.

Am just back from the mess so will finish before retiring.

Saturday 31st March went out rather like a lamb. Although still cold and raw but occasionally a little sun. The hour's earlier start makes quite a difference and we will soon be able to have dinner at 7.30 without light. Up on the drill ground as usual in the morning where some very satisfactory work was done. The men seem to especially enjoy the jumping. The squadrons at Musketry in the afternoon at which they are pretty rusty but this brush up will help matters I hope. Walked over to see them with Smith after inspecting some remnants out of which I picked one for myself, but got up to very much I fear. Completed the war diary for the month and then went down to Ed Barber for an hour. He was not in very good humor. They always have school all day Saturday and a holiday on Thursday. Read the communique the papers (Lundon F.P.) and chatted to Rackham. Bed about midnight.

Sunday 1st April "Journée des poissons" as the French say as fishing season opens. Hot bath and late breakfast

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about 8.45. Found my new shirts are
shrinking as I am getting fat about
the neck. Got three special leaves
again this week. Wonder if they
will keep up. Spent the morning in
the office except for a saddle
inspection at 11.30 like I used to have in
London, everything laid out. Was very
pleased with it. After lunch rode
to ——— with Smith on new horse
for gas and bought some cigarettes at
the canteen. It is a beautiful old
town and not much knocked about
in spite of being still shelled about
one month. I have quite a nice little
dinner of chicken and apple pie!! and
a liquor afterwards and have just
come up now. A bundle of Saturday
evening posts and a mechanics post
rather which will give me a few
days reading but no Elbar March
Cosmopolitan which I like best but
they will likely turn up.

I expect to have a busier week
but will cable on Wednesday as
usual and likely write you a few
lines and by end see word. Nothing
further to add except very much
love for you three. Am lucky to
be so comfortable here now. The