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Western Archives, Western University

Sunday 14 July

(Fall of Basille in 1791)

Dearest Mother

I have been deluged with Canadian letters and don't know how to thank you and dear Father and the girls for your regular and interesting letters which mean so much to me. I marvel at dear Father with his hands so full and his mind so busy making time to write me as he does such beautiful letters as well as his business notes. I do appreciate it and want you to know it.

Yesterday I received yours of June 16th & 23rd letters with joyful news about dear Charlie and as first I had heard of it a great load lifted off my mind. You had said something about a cable and I was expecting one daily and wondering what had happened but felt sure it was sent and never reached me.

However all well now and I am simply delighted and will cable the dear child next weekend. I sent it on to Sarah. Am glad to note you are still persevering with car and must congratulate you at your energy and only ask you to be careful. Your mother's letter of 11th I have already acknowledged.

I am very much relieved to hear your opinion of Father's attitude re engine should bushes and thank you very much for saying what you did and am glad to realize that perhaps there has been the mistake in my letters.

This point and feared he did not fully understand me. alas the handicap of having to write our thoughts in brief letters instead of talking these things over.

Am glad my friends came forward with congratulations and am sure you thanked them suitably.

I fear the O' shell contract is laying dear Father pretty heavily and a few full I should be at his side to bear part of burden and relieve him but - it is hard to say and we must win to make life worth living for our children or nephews and nieces and now it seems to be a question of man power and sticking it out the longest so I must leave doing far best by staying over here.

How glad you must have been to be in Montreal with Clark for the event. I know what it meant to her and the prospect of a couple of months in Dorval hotel is enchanting. Also forwarded you 1st letter from Montreal with some very interesting snippets.

So pleased about His Excellency's visit and yours & Father's participation in it, very gratifying.

How much I had feared for you with me. What a companion he would have been.

14-7-17

Lestie found the enclosed pinned up on wall of stable where we arrived here today and showed it to me and I confided it to one.

I know how the dear lad held publicity and if old Barnhill put this article in the Canadian War News (distributed to all soldiers in France) he should be censured. I must say it hurt me and I know how Wood would have felt. Evidently a Lunden had just enclosed it and knew I was O.C. of CLH but just what his motive in putting it up was I don't know.

Sarah does appreciate your regular letters very much and sends them on to me. Give our love to her at TOURS.

So sorry to hear about Jack Carlings son being wounded. My heart goes out to me as I know how he loved his boys and devoted himself to them. We are not alone by any means in our sadness. Sorry Edward & Arthur such a wreck. He is a fine boy and although I did not see much of him I liked him. I fear he lacked ambition as he would have pushed more for his commission last spring or summer when Wood was so anxious to get him one.

First I heard of return of Rufus although I knew he thought of it and was pretty well run down from strain over the

14-7-19

I also had such a sweet letter from dear Estelle as well as a box about 2 weeks ago such a long letter too, and I know how busy she is kept. So F Ware is to work with James in Ottawa. He has done well but of course on staff all the time in "A" work over here and did wonderfully well, but personally I prefer to be in a combatant unit.

I also have dear Father's business & personal letters with B/P of new shop of June 17th & 24th and fully approve and endorse all he has and is doing re "b" contract. Tell him that if he will "sleep better" with brick wall right across west end of premises to not think about pulling it up. I fully agree and his feelings and comfort must come first. Will by and write him at length this week.

Had nice letters also from Aunt Elizabeth & Mary and also Chas. which when I will get caught up seems hard to say as we remain here today and are just unsettled and my wife seems very much occupied and some tired at night.

Should hear the Blake girls news as rather thought they might be too ha

14-7-18

to suit and am glad you want a present. I should write and if you will send address I will try to send by Saturday.

Enclose a rosebud from Delapiedard garden (not tended for years) about this once beautiful spot. The flowers still pushing through wheels and wreckage.

Have only 3 days of diary to add so will do so and turn in.

Friday 12 July (Orange's Day). Left — at 8.00 in rain storm and spent day getting underway or rather waiting to be safe of my three drunken sergeants. A very distasteful business to me and most unpleasant but had to be done in interests of discipline. Had lunch with the Band who was president of court and got home about 8.00 PM as a 15 mile ride to & fro. Found an old French historian in the Esplanade who I sat waiting my turn and spent most of the night at. I was surprised when in Town at Sarah's French. She can understand almost everything they say to her and speaks quite fluently. She is going to try and take a few lessons to perfect her grammar. My French I fear is rather steady and am now too old to make much more progress!!!

Saturday 13 July. Paid my mess bill out of what I had left of the 1000/- I took on leave and consider I did very well. I have a new pair of field boots just since those I got from Peel for Landon left as how warm dear boots for last year. (Would you like them now sent home. He was them about as long as I did) They don't fit as I would like but price comparatively reasonable 110 shillings!!! whereas a made to order pair would cost 150 I think my saddle saw all the better a little after I break them in.

Yes Walter would like broadsheet jacket only (not breeches) in the fall as it will save me getting a new one this year.

Spent morning examining 26 carparals and some carparals. One of the lot of promising young men and am future Senior NCO's. They have had about one month's special instruction, and were well pleased and encouraged by results. Was late for lunch. Spent afternoon inspecting and various I.M. stores. While Squadron commanders had a kit inspection and got ready for manoeuvres tomorrow. Had Town Major in for a farewell dinner. He has treated us well and we always try to get on well with such people and be welcomed back if we should ever return.

14-7-18

Spent evening until nearly midnight pouring
over all your dear letters which I already have
acknowledged. My thoughts were with you &
I frankly confess I longed more than ever to
be done with this and back again in London best.

Sunday 14 July Francis Day. Up at 6.00.
Inspected billets at 8.00 and regiment as it
marched off at 9.00. Lowly morning, cool &
rain at night so no dust and in broad good
time and reached here — at noon. Found
54 DAC under Lt Col Sgt Colagui here (but below
level) and no stables for our horses and
men pretty crowded. Spent afternoon
settling and had regular stables in
evening. Two messes (mess & A) office
and 15 officers billeted in this once
magnificent Chateau, but oh how unicked
and how warm and beautiful furniture and
tapestries knocked about by 4 years of it. I
have best rooms and beds of carved oak wardrobe
mirrors broken. Owner in Paris, used for
2 years as a hospital. One end of Chateau
bills against village church and 2
windows on 2nd floor look down into
the chancel from 25 feet up, most quaint.
Smell of attended. Most tonight. Saw
most comfortable although all officers
pretty well crowded. Grand and
beautiful new unicked room. Saw off