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Friday 5 Oct

17
Dearest Mother

A week ago today I was waiting for the Paris train at --- and yesterday I got back after 5 full days. Much disappointed only to find one Canadian letter from Alice dated Sept 2nd and one from Uncle Charles Mc Carhill. They do occasionally seem to take so long to come. 10 lbs of fudge etc from dear Uncle Jack sent from somewhere in the states. He is such a dear soul and so generous. We will have at least tonight. Too late getting back to send cable for which I am sorry.

Friday 28 Sept. Dawson went to "A" in Hazards plane and Ding will now be adjutant although it will take time to get these promotions through. Spencer also goes to "A" and Wallaceford (when he returns) goes as I.M. and meanwhile Packshutt is acting. I will be a chaplain but a good thing once in a while I believe. Sent in three names for Xmas honors and mentions. I had trouble selecting as I had 12 down in my ^{note} book to choose from. I keep personal track of such things and consider the allotment to this unit very small. Decided to build a hut out of surplus material for "A" Squadron when instead of letting them go into the officer's house and Spencer made a sketch and a good start. Said goodbye to Hazard who said come

my nice things about Theo and his work in
the regiment which I fear were hardly merited.
I will miss him very much and if
opportunity ever offers (and he is available
well by God get him as M.O. My new
glasses did not arrive so will have to go to Paris
in order to see spectacles which I don't
mind here but which I fear my better half
will want me to discard as she is very
particular about my dress and appearance
and does her best to keep me up to the mark.
Tabulated exam results and distributed them,
the N.C.'s did better than the officers, as they
take it very seriously. Visited stables
and had a donlette at 12.30 and started
off for Paris in A.M.M.B. Under at
1.00 going through devastated country via
Beaumont and Albert and visited Corbelle
Poziers and other scenes of our exploits on
the Somme a year ago. Took my time and
stopped several times. The country is like a
desert but the new main roads magnificent
just like asphalt. Everything of course
grown over and some of the villages and
towns hardly discernible. It almost
makes one heart sick. Passed some
American engineers and one of dear Woods
departs by the roadside which brought a
lump to my throat. Several small wood

5-10-17

monuments erected to mark masses where they had fallen ^{in bunches} and were buried in one big grave. Reached ~~Paris~~ about 5.30 and had

tea and bought Sarah a couple of summer spoons before my train left at 6.30. I very crowded but got a seat and was in Paris at 8.30 and getting off before we stopped row to gang way and got ahead of crowd and a taxi down the street. Found Sarah out at theatre with Rachman as I had not been able to wire and should not expect more soon.

Waited for her in her room but she spotted the light and so spoiled the surprise. Was fortunately able to get a room and Madame insisted on giving me a late dinner. Found Sarah looking better than I expected.

Saturday 29th Left Petit déjeuner in room and asked Rachman & Munroe to lunch at Café de Paris at 12.30 which was a great success and no lack of good things even if prices pretty stiff. 80 frs for 4 of us including 1 bottle of Burgundy. We then did some shopping and I enquired about your regimental subband at Laure and Galerie Lafayette and Sarah had a mane at the hairdresser which I made rather a line. Packed a bag and caught electric for Versailles about 6.00 having engaged a room at Trianon Palace Hotel by

telephone. Most comfortable with a bath and overlooking the gardens and forest. Ideal summer weather that reminded us both of Westchester 3 years ago. Service in dining room not very good due to week end rush. but meals good and surroundings palatial, a very modern hotel in every way.

Sunday 30th Sept. Choccal from Chad with water (by law) and was bread in room about 9.00 and did not go down for dinner until noon. Service poor but in no hurry, a great week end crowd but a lot of very nice French people apparently staying here permanently. Had in gardens all afternoon and watched the interesting groups and also some birds. Rackham & Munnice out for tea and in afternoon showed former the Palace and Harcourt and saw them off about 6.00. Two very nice chaps and they have been so kind to Sarah. Had to wait an hour between passage and packet and complained to "Directeur" with good results afterwards.

Had a liquor in hall and retired about 10.00. A wonderfully beautiful place and we want hurry back to city.

Monday 1st Oct. Aush a dear old teacher serves tea in the room. I should French type. He insisted on getting us a pot of

5-10-17

honey to augment our breakfasts. He deplored the changed conditions due to the war. Spent the day in the gardens and read "If you wish but know" under the trees together. Not a breath in the sunshine and quite hot, like an Indian summer. Sarah wrote in evening while I read the French papers. Hotel comparatively deserted and we are getting good service.

Tuesday 5th Oct. I think our nicest day of all. Weather perfect. Got up early after nearly depleting our pot of honey and taking our book walked down by the two Triannon Places (houses of Mesdames Pompadour and du Barry) while the Queen lived in the Grand Palace and back to the fountains by the Lake.

Here we had a delightful dinner out of doors at a little cafe by the water that we mistook we had discovered sooner. Hors d'Oeuvre,

Steak, fruit and a small bottle of Burgundy. We sat there until 2.30 and then found a moon in the woods and read our book. The gardens quite deserted, chestnuts on the ground and leaves just beginning to fall but weather like midsummer. Baby looking well so bright. Had tea when we got back and coffee and Piquet on terrace in moonlight after dinner. Hotel quite quiet although some very interesting looking people.

5-10-17

apparently staying there permanently.

Wednesday ~~and~~ ~~lect~~ another perfect day.

Packed up and paid our bill and got away about noon. Saw benches again as have them

wearing slacks here. Pont d'Alma about 1.00

and after leaving bags at Hotel Lord Byron

and getting mail replied to Café de Paris (our

favorite I do you know it?) for a good

lunch as meatless days (Monday & Tuesday)

over. Our hopes upraised by one of

Commissariat de Police who said he thought

Sarah could go to ~~me~~ with me tomorrow.

but also no, when we got to proper office.

Visited Club and met the ~~mission~~ Miss

Moore. It is a very large and far reaching

institution and is doing much needed work

and principally amongst Canadians. I

concluded fit heartily to your favorable

consideration of it is ever brought

before you for financial aid. I would

like to do some missionary work in

its behalf. Met some of Sarah's helpers

and then took taxi up town and had tea

at Café de la Paix (our old haunt) and

watched the endless crowd. No patisserie

or sweets today. Did a little window shopping

and a real Opéra in dinner at Ciro's

and the Folies Bergère where we saw a

very good show. More lucky enough

5-10-17

missed him. Had a dinner and started march
 in moonlight about 8.00 and joined the dance
 at 11.00. Danced once but forgot the names
 name and then looked up Pearson in his office
 and spent an hour chatting with him. He was
 very nice although found what I gather not very
 popular with his command either male or
 female, but he has played the game as we
 must give him his due. Had coffee and cake
 and got away about midnight but only to be
 caught in train and home about 1.00 AM on
 Friday 5th Sept. Up as usual and although
 still warm looks like a change. Good
 news from up north looks very encouraging.
 Spent morning around stables and office and
 went for a little ride after lunch. Army
 affairs as M.C.'s had had a very enjoyable
 gymkhana on Sunday. Mr. Pinner looking
 better. Distributed 30 ornaments to thirty
 each squadron commander pick in
 turn. Disappointed at Prochob, no
 mail and cannot quite understand it.
 Sam had overlooked writing dear
 Mother for her birthday, but will call.
 Hazard got away on 7th day and Pearson
 has taken over and King in orderly room.
 Strickland has 2 cables and is the
 butt of many jests. He eats too much. Will
 send this and finish on Sunday. J.B.