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My dearest Mother

Saturday
14 July 1917

The weeks seems to pass (Frank Ray 10:00 PM)
so slowly and yet when I start these weekly
letters it seems no time since I wrote the
last one. Have had several small
Canadian mails this week two letters from
you and two from Father which I have
answered, also a nice one from Aunt
Birdie. She has evidently not received
the one I wrote her about Edward. I
wrote his v.c the other day about his
commission and hoped it will go through
allright. Your letters are June 17th and
June the 25th and they cheered me very
much especially the latter in which
you seemed brighter & better. I think of
you a great deal and your well being
has been much on my mind lately. I
do hope you will take every care of
yourself and while I know you must
have some occupations yet so quietly
and do not undertake too much this
summer. Sarah also forwarded
a couple of your letters to her. You
are very good to write us back so
regularly and your dear letters do mean
a great deal. I am a little worried about
Sarah living alone without a maid
and getting her own meals as it will
be awfully lonely for her. She is

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checking to me at 10 Mally but feel sure you
will find it in his diary.

The bundle I sent to Sarah with Woods
leather writing case and new jacket and also
some hundred of letters and things of my
own never reached here. It was the 1st
sent over as I thought she could forward
the writing case more quickly. I intended
having jacket altered and using it. Now I
hear it has been sent to Canada with
his other things but ^{you} will likely be
able to pick my things up, and we can
straighten it out then in the fall if I get
over.

I too was much comforted by Raymond's
letter. It was very beautiful and I will
try and write him soon.

Yours letter of 23rd describes the boys in
a way that makes me want to see them
very much. I am sure they have been a
great comfort to you all. Do not add
that I dreamed of ending and going in
here the other night. Larry Fisher did
not get to Westchester but understood
his trip was very hurried and he
of course had Margaret with him and
a lot of ground to cover.

Aulby is doing work that came to
for more while he is there if he

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mine over here and I hope that he does
not make a change. Vic Bent and
Norman Plummer have been a year in
England now and despair of getting over.

Elaine will be learning you about now
and feel sure you will cherish her very
much. Alice has been awfully good
about writing me how I liked. I will be
so glad to have the shape of you all.

You do not mention Grand and I
am wondering if you are without.
Love dear Jan. Truly Love I think of
her very often. I will bombardment
one tonight so I suppose a raid in
progress.

Monday 9th July Beautiful summer day.
We are having delightful weather. But
drill ground all morning and had to
let off a sergeant for being dirty but if
he had made excuses I should not have
punished him. A Welsh regiment came
up before we were through as our field
is about the only one in this area
uncultivated. But I made a mutual
arrangement with them. Much
encouraged about Russian progress
and only hope it keeps up. Sarah writes
Nelson's Oak is nearly all and going back
to U.S. what will upset her feathers.

Am not riding too much yet so spent afternoon in office and visited his horse in evening. We feed again about 8:00 P.M. and the good condition of my horses shows the attention they are getting. Hanscom got back from leave last night after apparently a very gay leave.

Tuesday 10th July. Had a marching order parade on the school square, "strong as possible" with which Lewis well pleased. Had riding schools and M.C.P.'s class out with it also. Took the jumping classes myself. Very few of our best but what jump very well. Had a meeting of council committee to formulate a new system. attended evening studies. Had Rockham and Strickland witness power of attorney for Father and will make it by registered post tomorrow. M.O. & V.O. started off in great spirit for 10 days leave at NIECE. It is a long time of fear will be hot now but Paris is still barred, I suppose on account of "France Day" on 14th. I got back to the office. I was warned about Sarah being alone in the village although she does not say a word. She is very brave about such things. I must be very lonely.

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Wednesday 11 July a⁶ beautiful cool day and
as usual I left for plant
at 8.30. Took Fyfe & New subaltern with
me to have a talk with him and size up
his capabilities and deficiencies. I try to
take an occasional trip with my junior
officers like this to get to know them better
personally. Saw the King with bar & motor
and an aeroplane escort as we crossed the
road. Soldiers lined up to
cheer him as he went by. He certainly works
hard. At our lunch in an O.P. on top
of ridge overlooking — and I pointed
out the various points of interest on the
plain to Fyfe with the spikes of — in
the distance. He saw his first shells
burst and the bricks fly. We then
walked up to — and spent over an hour
trying to locate some sign of a grave of
John Murray as we have had no word of
his being a prisoner and I am afraid
he must have died there but without
success. The men in village much
amused at our walking around but I
wanted to make sure and do all I could.

Looked at graves of three more of my men
whom we had buried there but found a
5.9 had blown them away and only found 2
pieces of the cross. The remains may
well be in side of crater and will

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send a small party up to dig around and
put in a new cross. The horses of place
by patches of oats growing up from
heads of their horses that were shot with them
and not buried very deep. I wondered at
first at the oats in the midst of craters
surrounded by thick weeds but it
dawned on me! Looked at some more
of our graves on way back and found
the crosses OK but graves sunk in. Met
Col Anderson of 2 Brigade who lived in
same dugout with Wood during preparations
in March & April. I had not seen him
since one day with Wood on same last
fall. Had tea at "B" on way back and
looked over their horses. A long day
until 7.30 over 15 hours already walking
and riding. Little Fyle quite done up.
Wrote diary at some length in evening.
Thursday 12 July. Warm. Put recruits
over jumps. Miss Smith very much and
said I have to handle things pretty hard.
Had to give one officer a call to come at
noon to stables.

Saw a divisional
general review. The 1st (Rifles) (regulars)
dug out field in P.M. and then did a little
jumping and butt pegging but very

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Let. Peggy fell at polo jump and I hit the chest rubbing skin off right cheek.

Wrote Father a business letter about additions to mounting shop and also sent him a cable. Mr. Churchill spent Sunday with Sarah and took her to Windsor. So glad of little change for her. Dawson wants to take a job in England and asked my concurrence. Told him the war was being fought in France but said I would not oppose the change if he wanted to go. Read Times as usual after dinner, talked to Rackham about Irish question and retired.

Friday 13th July. The last Friday 13th I remember was the day on which I went on leave from home!! Very warm and "deer flies" hadow fields. Watched the M.C.O.'s class and think it will be a great help to all concerned. Jumped the Wake, twice around our course. Capt Kerr CAMC arrived to take over M.C.O.'s place. Prepared exam papers for M.C.O.'s and which they wrote with their coats off in the afternoon. Worked in office until 11.00 and then corrected exam papers until 7.15 and for an hour after dinner to finish them up. On the whole was very pleased with them. Letters from Mother & Sarah

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Did a little writing and retired as usual
at midnight.

Saturday 14th July. A heavy thunder storm
about 7.30 did not make things any
cooler but cleared in time to carry out
M.C.O.'s mounted and dismantled stores
in morning and afternoon. Things very
sticky. Rode over to field after lunch and
knew a few jumps but very warm.

Had a conference with squadron
commanders about a number of matters.
Find it a very satisfactory way to handle
things. They are more responsive and
co-operating than if I issue orders
only. Read my Times as carefully as
"Father reads the Globe and Times". Wrote
many letters in evening and read a letter of
Matters that Sarah forwarded. Could not
get to sleep for a long time.

Sunday 15th July. Hard to believe that it
is already midsummer but already days
a little shorter although waking now at
9.30 in broad daylight. My old canvas
bath (2 years in daily use) is leaking
and I am afraid Madeline will be
lodging a complaint. Had a talk
with M.C.O.'s about various matters
and invited their free discussion of
various matters. Some of my
letters to take back to P.C. Cap

2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays)

Took a ride with Ferris to see a rifle range. Spent an hour at work tables and all afternoon in the office. It is surprising how much work there is to do. Find my stenographer a great help but he is illiterate and his grammar is bad so I have to be careful.

Had high tea at 6.00, ham, scalope and strawberry tart. Our cook might make beautiful light pastry.

It makes me a little homesick to hear M. & Madame Saulery chatting in garden below my window. I wrote you all at afternoon tea at Oakwood.

#40659 Pte R. C. Harrison a Battery man called who helped unload Wood's body from ambulance at #18. He was there wounded himself. He could however give me no further information.

Must be and write a few more letters tonight so won't add more.

Am with you all in thought very often and am looking forward to seeing you in the fall. Take care of yourself dearest mother.

your ever loving son

John