

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

dearest Mother

Sunday 11 Nov
3.30 P.M.

I rec'd your dear letters yesterday with
enclosures which I have destroyed after perusal
all so welcome and interesting. It has been a
week of hard fighting but Englishified
specimens as far as our Corps are concerned.

My men have performed (dismounted)
more than usual and have done some good
work which I trust will receive due
recognition as far as individuals are
concerned. Rather sad news last night.
Wadge (whom you will remember as an L.C.O.
in London and given a commission about
a year ago) and Sgt Lickers and 3 men
doing reconnaissance work were all killed
and blown to bits by a direct hit on their
dugout. We all feel very sore as to what
perhaps my most promising German
officers and Lickers one of our best L.C.O's
He was medical corporal to Major Nelson
in London. This makes 8 killed and 21
wounded since we came up here. They had
to be buried on the spot, as what was
left of them and the Queen is up today
seeing what he can do.

Monday 5 Nov. Anti aircraft party
with 4 Harkins guns left at 8.15 under
Matherman. Very inspected them as I did
not get up until 9 A.M. Had dressed my side
and had chocolate and toast in bed for

first time except when on leave. My later
and dictated quite a few letters in office.

The appointment of Major Mackin still
vacant although Carmichael acting but as he
is a combatant officer he does not want to
keep it. Have recommended Rackham and
hope it will go through in due course.

M.O. gave me calls so did not feel like
venturing very far so only visited A & C
squadrons which are the subject. Harrison
has acquired a nice "Police dog".
Inspected transport lines. Strickland up in
front paying details up there. Took a short
walk after lunch. Everett called about tea
time. Gen Elmsley's brigade is resting
around us. Nice long letter from Sarah
wrote her and also Hyla Beets a few
lines. Went over dear Maud's biography
as far as I have been able to get it together
and will have it typewritten tomorrow.

Played bridge. Le Blow (our Belgian
interpreter) is very good and an extremely
nice fellow. Mr. Rother at same.

Leaked no tractors. Bathed some water
on Smith's little oil stove which I have
borrowed during his absence on leave and
bathed myself which is still very sore.

Moon rises at midnight and on the
whole so not much chance of a good tonight.

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Tuesday 6 Nov. am reading several good
continued stories in S.E.P. which came
last week dear Mother and which I always
enjoy as an hour in bed before I go to sleep.
Lorrell sent me Nov. Cosmopolitan but
I have missed October, however synopses
in front of stories make it possible to read
on. Kings and I ordered our horses to go
up in front but a heavy rain came on
as I did not feel like getting soaked
when I did not have to put the trip off.

Worked in office and visited B and the
way back called on Cinsley and asked him
only to dinner on Thursday. He has had a
steady 2 weeks in front line and has put on
two attacks. His brigade has lost quite
heavily and the rest back here much
needed. all his men in new tents (white)
and mixed up all farmers who fear
raids. They are getting them camouflaged
but if bright nights like last week they
would have made a great target for raiders.

We camouflaged ours with haydross
and mud and they are all nice and hidden.

Horses holding up fairly well so far.
Two of our divisions went over the hags the
AM and both with so great rejoicing.

They seem to count on the Canadians
to put on the final touches and we have
not failed them yet.

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amongst my men, two of them
 were just recommended for commissions
 and would have been sent back in another
 week or so. It seems hard luck. Our
 losses otherwise were comparatively
 light but always more easily to hold than
 to attack. Walked into ~~the~~ in P.M. for
 exercise as not much pleasure riding in
 mud or on paved roads which are only
 alternative. Looked up grave of one of our
 Corporals who just died from wounds (leg
 blown off) in an Australian C.C.S. near
 us. He told his people particulars.
 One of our best football players. He might
 have been saved but insisted on the men
 in his carrying party getting their
 ammunition up to guns before he would
 let them carry him out and in so doing
 sacrificed himself. He was recommended
 for a D.C.M. Saw them burying at the
 cemetery, 9 in a trench side by side
 packed up in canvas or blankets.
 Trench was full of water, colored with blood
 off the bodies.

Mr. Father and sent him
 copies of Waver biography and my
 views about a planned "memorial".
 Roughed out a cable with my views

retractors costing about 11 francs. My cable bill quite an item but it is worth while as I know you appreciate them. He letter from Sarah. Read now Campfire another box of sweets which I found later from dear Alice and was still enjoying Collier's; so delicious and already acceptable.

Wednesday 7th Oct. Another wet day so did not go up. As still have a little cold and the remains of phlegm on side to doctor, although both much better. Cleaned up in office and rode Wake up to see dear Commandant.

Passed George Little on way. He did not go over bridge with his regiment on Monday. Was looking well. They lost nearly all their officers including four Papineau who is the last remaining P.P.C.I. man except Hugh Brown. Hugh has been "instructing" last year. Rode around to R and John Campbell as this evening at 8 P.M. Farmer has a sprained ankle but is coming around. Inspected transport waggon with arrow to next move as they need a lot of watching. Walked to for exercise. When the pole and riding and jumping we enjoyed all summer.

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Just a little snow storm and very heavy
bombardment going on. Letter from
Rockham about Mads' hamper which he
was kind enough to look up. Enclose it
and my reply so you should get it in
about a month. Cable from Father re
leave. I cannot decide until I hear
from General Turner to whom I applied
for advice as apparently Gen. Culley
can do nothing. He has struck me off
strength after I am away 30 days which
means losing my job. (4:30 Night light
my candle is quite dark)

Thursday 8th Oct Beautiful day so left for
ward area on Busk along as King under
weather and had a good gallop across country.

Saw a Hun plane brought down as I was
entering V - the first for a long time. It did
my heart good. Midge killed Birkton who are
billed there were back forward so sent them
back and proceed on foot with a few lifts on
lories. The house is a little more flattened
than when we left 15 months ago but
it was a great house then. It must have been
a beautiful old place with an iron wall
and most with hall was all around the same.

Roads forward were under observation
and we lost - and damaged guns
ditched lories ammunition and dead
batteries on both sides all along.

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was fortunate enough to meet Bruntan¹¹⁻¹¹⁻⁴⁷
coming in and he returned with me and I
was able to visit most of his crew who
are carrying ammunition for heavy batteries
from road apt to guns. They cannot go very
far (the guns) on account of rubble mud,
into which they settle as they fire. How-
ever men line back me, but an almost
constant bombardment is kept up and
an enemy fire a dozen to one from them
who put over a lot so you can imagine the
din of heavy guns and bursting shells. Very
few ducks too. Saw most of his crew who
want rum, food, and their mail which
is hard to get to them as so scattered. Will
do what I can for them. Then crossed
over to the other main road in our area
passing our Headquarters en route.
They shoot some things but are having the
kind of time life shooting at planes
which try to bomb our guns. Saw
them letting off a few trips with
tracer bullets which leave a trail
of sparks so that fire can be observed
and corrected. Saw Matheson, half
my lunch which we ate as we walked
and then proceeded to traffic control party
on the other road a cordoned which is
being pushed right up to front line.
Same conditions all along it. Located

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my officers in an old German drinking station which was entered by a manhole and sunk to Heaven as bottles half buried bodies all around it. They said they were lousy but happy and gave me a cup of tea and then asked some of their men who watch for blacks in traffic right up to end of French road and try to keep things going when a lorry or train of pack animals are hit and a black caught. Saw another Hun plane brought down like a winged duck by a lucky shot from an Archie, the first one I have ever seen hit one !!!

Big guns everywhere belching forth. 7.2 Russ make noise but 60 rounds or so a sitting report. Looked up Bernard and Southon they back and draw into Oil Mill area and filled of woods now commanding a heavy artillery group. He gave me a drink and I met Jellie Rankine's husband Vassie who is his adjutant and seems such a nice chap. Getting dark and quite cold so could not stay so pushed over to main road and caught a lorry to — and another to — and walked home from there in rain and had just time to change before Cluskey came to dinner.

Night gave us very good meal and we had a pleasant evening playing k

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rubber of bridge. Sent King to greet them through
hole in hedge as our main road kneed deep in
mud. Salopys find Elmsley a perfect
gentleman. If you will excuse such an
expression. Elmsley was down also. Was
glad to be able to entertain them. I layed
another rubber, wrote Sarah and Ethel.
Received my mancard for about a
week hence.

Friday 9th Nov. Have done in our mess
working well at least by cutting a new
bell for pipe near top. Cleaned up in office
and rode back around to squadrons. Put out
at Ramon who is not making his officers
and N Co's help at stables which is really
necessary when we are down to about 30
men per squadron. The Emen up in
front. Supplied an old English blood
for our patrol duty with a horse and
understandably got him 3 drinks while
he was waiting. He was quite typical of
a old school British officer dressed in a
fantastic cardway uniform, but it
showed he was and was well.

Rode over to — to see Capt Numa
about alarm for the more and he gave
me tea. Such a nice chap. He said
donald did so much to make his leave
in Paris a success. He was with Raskhan

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Put some special entries in my diary and completed the casualty list. I kept there for my down reference.

Played 4 rubbers; so slow, very much better than the rest of us. Wrote Sarah read SEP and rolled in my flea bag. Blankets getting very dirty. Discard railway rug (green & black) and must be and get them washed. Have sand bag stuffed with straw for a pillow and most comfortable.

Saturday 10 Nov - Not morning as usual for our last attack to clean up a few more farms and pill boxes. The Almighty does not seem to help us much as far as weather goes but am sure He is on our side, and we must pay for our sins and past mistakes. 7. British bombardment has continued ever since but hear we have been successful. Dawson went to Paris for 14 days leave this A.M. Walked around the square in rubber boots as mud tricked but am glad to say horses are still keeping up as a result of constant negligence and mistreatment.

Made some preliminary preparations for our move as storming very much behind due to shortage of food. Walked over to my dentist at 5.05 PM after lunch but he still does not want to replace crown so again put in a

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Temporary filling. Worked at my Xmas
card list which I got back and will need
about 150 as this year I am end to Sarah's
relations in status. Maleson's letter urging
return of some of my men. 2 letters from
Mother and one from Sir George urging
leave. Paged our usual rubbers and
conquest breaking up when address
of Wadge and his party was moved in.
Sent it over to Bat Price as all in
that squadron. Went to by and met
some of our old haunts of 2 1/2 years ago
and went by to before we leave.

Sunday 11 Nov. alternate rain or sun
and heavy bombardment continues all day.
Wrote Sarah after breakfast and worked on
affair all AM. Inspected a draft of 14 men
very much needed. Indubitably looking chaps.
Plumacher has been. He eats too much
and takes no exercise and a mere child
but somehow I cannot forgive him for
being a non-combatant. It is an
old man's or a wounded man's job.

Went for our hours walk after lunch
and have been holding forth but and
saying that's different candies ever
since. Went out in but no Canadian
gunners still very very heavy. I fear
a big counter attack. Very much love
D.H.