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Reed Dec 20-17

Sunday 2 Dec 17

Dearest Mother

Have no special letters to answer this week as home I written Father pretty fully and not much Canadian mail to hand.

Letter from Cape Co dated 27 Nov saying Wood's helpers had been forwarded to officer in charge of Estates who has promised to send it to you through usual channel for deceased officers kits so hope it will reach you in due course.

Monday 26 Nov up before 6.00 and out before tables removed and found things pretty well in order and as far as I could see only one officer late as did not say very much.

Visited the men at breakfast and was very pleased with meal I found them getting well cooked, ample and ready in plenty of time.

Returned to my room and shaved and put on boots and had breakfast with M.O.

Went out on exercise rides with Peggy and found several things not in order which I will have rectified. The Green

joined me and we had a good cross country gallop. Got out a syllabus for our Harchis machine gun course and sent it around. Arthur and Adrian Law for lunch, latter looks very thin, is married and has a family and over her in connection with elections. Have not seen him for ten years. Took Buster out for a gallop.

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across campus. As wind has dried things up a lot. Dictated a good many letters and wrote Hazard and young Hume Blake who wants to follow to this Regiment and promised to do what I could for him although I understand he is delicate. Had a walk before dinner and wrote Sarah and read SEP afterwards.

Tuesday 27 Nov. Rain in wind. Wrote in mess after breakfast and then had usual walk in spite of rain as must have regular exercise. Attended revolver practice after lunch and am keeping up a fair average. Sarah has written a letter about not going to Canada as her disaffection would be too much for her mother (other) aged. She has expressed least in anticipation of our visit. M.O. gave a house party and dinner at 4 pm so only being Strickland & I for dinner and no bridge afterwards. Read SEP in my room and retired.

Wednesday 28 Nov. Sent Oakwood cable acknowledging his I had received about business and about leave. Rode Busby up to Corps to see about officers on whom I am making an unfavorable report. Heard my application for 30 days leave was going through all right and that there was no

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doubt about my getting it, although certain formalities to be gone through. Pleasant ride back and just in time for lunch but am eating very lightly these days.

attended to office work and inspected Hatchkiss gun class on each squadron which are going well. Had leave at 5.00 and walked into theatre at 7.00 with Smith and saw a very good show in which 2 new look women's parts very well. A good little sketch also put on and well acted (written by Stephen Leacock, Elmer's friend).

Walked home in moonlight about 8.30 and wrote Sarah in answer to 2 letters from her.

Thursday 29th Nov - Rode to Wakeham with squadron exercises again and found things in order and afterwards had a good gallop. All my horses are in fine shape and very lively. attended stables and found fair progress in clipping although a slow process. After afternoon lunch and again did fairly well at revolver practice. Went to room and wrote Father and 5 other letters in view of possibility of getting leave early in week. Was pleasantly surprised by a call from Gus Smith who is now MO of 4th Bn. We had many things in

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common to discuss and stayed in town and take dinner soon his Ben in rest about 3 kilos away. Had a meeting of squadron commanders about electric and machine plans for a thorough canvas and to do all possible for the conception art. Also discussed feeding of our horses for winter months.

Played bridge in evening and then got a few notes together reflections as well as address all my men at a meeting parade although no "fraternal meeting" allowed under King's regulations yet I feel I am entitled to put both sides of question before them in view of the seriousness of the situation.

Friday 30 Nov. Up early and started for Corps (10 miles) at 8.15 with Teece alone of my new officers and spent day until 5.30 at Corps martial. Lawson on "A" staff broke the sad news that the Corps commander had NOT approved my application for leave. The reason he regret having applied and would not had I not felt I was entitled to it after 2 years 3 months continuous service in France. and been assured that there was no doubt about getting it. Might legitimately have appended a M.O.'s certificate of it as has not been up to mark but don't like going to the extent of

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such a subterfuge as long as I can
 carry on, although many do. I fear
 Corps Commander has very little use for
 me on the C.L.H. as later at 6.00 when I
 intervened him about unfavorable
 report on me he suspended same
 and asked me to give him 2 months
 further trial. Should not have made
 report had I not been fully justified
 and have given — 3 chances now. He
 is a drunkard and not the class of officer
 we want in France as unreliable. I
 will now have to have him court
 martialled when next he falls and disgraced
 instead of merely being sent back to
 Canada. Left for Corps Commander
 who backed me up as he should have, but
 said nothing. Had lunch at B Mess
 where they are always very kind. Rode
 back with — who used to haul for
 Murray's Co and had dinner at 9.15 which
 they kept for me. I was in my
 extra duty commanders as D.R.'s
 for election which starts tomorrow.
 Letter from Sally who I fear is working
 too hard and needs rest and change
 as much as not more than I do.
 Saturday 1st Dec. Beautiful day. Had
 early breakfast and at 8.15 all the

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regiment were involved in a hollow
square and I addressed them. I enclose
my notes for Father but did not need them
as I had my subject pretty well in hand.
Spoke for half an hour and also put in
a good word for Canadian Victory Loan.
Held office and spent rest of
morning visiting the 3 polling booths
and attended three scrutineers for
the government. Think our vote will
be pretty solid in right direction as we
are pretty closely in touch with regiment.
Saturday and after lunch held office
again and then did some revolvers
shooting but did not do so well with
left hand. Walked up with Henry
who resigned his majority to get over
me and is a fine chap. Held office
again at 6:00 and had a pleasant
dinner with Geo. Brady who came for
dinner and played bridge afterwards.
He is kind in his remembrance of
the 3 ballots and voices sentiments of
Rome Consul who is in his Bth.
Wrote Sarah sad news about leave
but noted to do it as knew how great
her disappointment will be. At a few
delicious chocolates she sent me for 2nd
but have to be careful as want to get
my blood in better shape as barbs etc

have hung on for six months ever
since I had infected ankle last time.

Cannot understand it as only take
loaf and cereal for breakfast and hardly
any meat or sweets for lunch and if
anything too much exercise.

Monday 2 Dec 1917 Quite cold but
beautiful day. Read the blackest Dec
news I have read since war started about
Russian peace which on top of Landsdowne
letter and the possibility of Canada and
men like Lord Balfour not backing us
up over here makes one feel pretty
blue. If the sacrifices the Canadians
have made over here and the thousands
of little wooden crosses are not enough
to make those at home want to see the game
through now why then let their sons
fight it out and fill graves in a foreign soil
25 years hence. If this act is limited down
as some of my men said today we won't be
able to hold our heads and we had better go
to some other country after the war and
make our home there. Read all morning
thinking these things over. Washed in
afternoon after lunch. Bob Lawson late of RMC
staff called to see me for tea and we had
our usual rubber after dinner. Am
going up to line tomorrow - will be even
much less Ibb.