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Sunday 7 Apr 18

Dearest Mother

Have acknowledged me budget of Am.
letters received this week so would date
further and know that if diary letters not
as lengthy as heretofore you will
understand. Am greatly relieved to have
just read a letter from Sally who, as her
work at an end for present in Paris
has moved to TOURS, pro tempore. I don't
know what arrangements she will be
able to make there but her temporary
address is

55 RUE NATIONALE
TOURS
FRANCE

Early Monday 1 April 1918 Anniversary of
VINNY according to church year and our
temporary loss of dear Dad. Another
beautiful day. All officers out on morning
stables and as no privacy in the hut I
was able to overhear "all comments". Went
down to CAGO and arranged to have
Hatchers crews excused from working
parties to enable them to train which
will be a great relief. Saw Bagert and
Gwen Hodgins and then accompanied by
Smith made a trip into forward area
on our new front to pick out a few
overland routes but difficult as country

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heavily wired and old trenches not used
for 12 months being cleaned out again.
Passed over new work. Saw
some very interesting things and got a
general impression of new area. Tried to
locate McDonald & Maurice Plummer but
was unable to. Forgot lunch but had some
tea when we got in about 5.00 which spoiled
our dinner at 6.00. Very interesting reports
coming in from Machine Gun Brigade
operating down below. They are doing good
work and are much in demand. Had
tickets for local theatre but was kept too
late at office to go. No mail. Wrote Sally.

Tuesday 2 April another lovely day and
horses doing well in open. Worked at my
war diary and then rode down to our
watering place which unfortunately is
about a mile away. Went on and located
several good horse standings unoccupied
along river. Woodman & Campbell
working at examination of Hatchers
guns and found the standard very low.
Barclay White looking very well
looked us up for 1st time in about 6
months. He is now Capt & GSO 3 on
one of the divisions. Feel sure he will
get along well. Men had baths in
P.M. & dismissed stables early.

Morning Sollier came and
a nice box of chocolates. Good report
from Spencer who is south with A" Squadron.

Located 2 Hatcher's guns against
aircraft and will have them manned
all night. Held office after lunch and
had to furnish several men. Went to
cinema with Smith at 6.00 and saw
an excellent show with 2 very good
male girls. A singer was extremely good.

Retired early as no place and too cold to
sit up very late. Our hut is barely
weather proof which is about all that
can be said for it. Little oil stove a
great comfort for heating shower water.

Wednesday 3rd April. Met night band
on barrow but dried up later. Am glad I
did not discard rubber boots as very muddy
around barrow lines. Was going out far at
night when Ben Craig blew in so returned
had a chat with him. Sending 3 officers
patrol out each day over new area so
as to get them familiar with it. They
made report and put notes on a map.
Saw pair of air balloons shot down one
after the other by one of them, but all were
up again replaced next morning.

However we do as much to them every afternoon.
Suppose the pilot will get an even score.

Very disappointed with results of Haichhiss classes, and refused to allow any of candidates to wear the badge on arms for these gunners. Will have to start them all over again. Held office and gave one man a good lecture about writing discouraging reports home. His letter was caught by our censor fortunately. Gen Curry sent up for our trumpeters to play the calls for his "mess". Very nice of him. One of our trumpeters blew for the King last when he was over. No "Times" but a dozen Canadian paper letters which were most welcome. Bombardment of Paris continues and wrote urging Sally to leave when her work is over. Very heavy bombardment as well as rain south of us all night. Sat up late reading Canadian letters and answering a few.

Thursday 4 April. It seems to be "hardening" down below and military situation more favorable. Some British divisions resting back of us and if their stories of slaughter of Germans are true, the advance has only been made at great sacrifice. After all it is a war of attrition and if we have killed enough the gain of territory does not mean much. It is now and very hard on horses.

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Joan wonder what the situation will be, say
next November. She came up and I gave
her a drink and we had a chat in my cubicle.

He return to England soon to help Beaumont
on propaganda very soon. Got the new
Holchess classes started, in spite of
difficulties for accommodation to carry
them on. I ruled them and made a few
criticisms. Patricia letter from Sally who
is naturally worried and does not know yet
that we have not taken an active part in
recent battle. Went for a walk in P.M.
and visited some new villages in one of
which I saw Mr. Hume. I ruled C. "agradon"
bars lines on way back. Cleared my table
in office, dined at 6:00 and a rubber of
bridge afterwards. Wrote Bob Wyle for
1000 cigarettes at Hume which I am still
smoking and Hume's few boxes of chocolates.
Read my welcome S.E.P. and to bed and
blew my candle out about midnight.

Friday 5 April another miserable night
still wet. Horses suffering. Too foggy
to send out patrols but working party off
as usual. Cant marshals all morning
and dropped into this office when finished
for a chat. Will miss him when he goes.
Met old Roberts, the author who is over
here gathering data. Addressed all Holchess

classes about importance of their work and asked them to do their best. Cold showering after lunch in spite of British Warmers needed a 5 mile walk and got back glowing.

Cowboy is greedy for riding. Asked a large French & British cemetery near us as an excuse to adapt a standard cross to put over our men. Had dinner with the McEwen and chatted until 10:30. Saw Ted Harris with his DSO. He is getting fat riding in a car all the time. Still raining when we returned very dark. What Sally us feel she is yearning madly. Very beautiful night all night but since had weather no riders out us.

Saturday 6 April Better weather but not settled yet. A camp of Chinese coolies near us saw a much at having to work 7 days instead of be called for on their contract & tried to murder their Chinese Sgt Major. Turned out 50 men to round them up and named a Hotchkiss gun on them while they picked out the 10 or 12 ringleaders. Fixed bayonets kept them quiet. They attacked him with shovels & cut him up horribly and if he dies the ringleaders will gladly be caught & executed. Shot. Mounted a guard over their camp at night. They beat up some of their White officers

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his who tried to save the old man. They were yelling "Hong" "hong" all the time and are a bad lot when excited although generally smiling and the best workers over here not excepting British labor boys. Their grievance was justified but they went wrong way about righting it. Personally I think a lot of them. They are from "coolie" class.

Went for a long ride with Smith after a beautiful morning and saw some country.

Several horses sick with some new disease on jaw which is causing our V.O.'s a good deal of concern, as apparently something entirely new. The army DDVS was around at noon stables and I saw him.

Held a transport inspection after lunch which was very good under muddy circumstances. Worked at loading and stores tables with squadrons commanders after lunch as many changes lately. Just a problem keeping up to date all the time.

Watt Rice from Slansaw wanting to get back at once and will do what I can to help him. Long letter from Sally which made me feel much cheerful.

Had a good rubdown of bridge after dinner and read a short novel & cold.

Just a bundle of Canadian papers very welcome.

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Sunday 7 April 18. Intense bombardment & rain all night but things quiet this A.M. Rain at night but very bright morning and rain again in P.M. Visited all Hatcher's classes in A.M. and then studied charts. Read Times after lunch and discussed some matters about sufficient officers with Ferris. Have been working in my "room" ever since but am going out to dinner with Smith and must change my boots. Three letters from Sally from Paris and Tams written last Monday & Tuesday, and am very relieved she is out of former place. Will add a few lines later X X X X X X X

Went to the — Pension. Had a very good one with Smith. Had dinner at Mess there and a game of bridge and they sent us home in state in a car about midnight. Very cold and frost before morning. Horses standing in wet blankets must be suffering. Slept better.

Monday 8 April Cold and raw. Am just finishing before going out with my Hatcher's gun. Cabled on Wednesday and will again this week. Very much love to all
bb