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Dearest Mother
KASNOV '18
Sunday 27 Oct

Letters from you and Father this week
on which I cannot lay my hands at present
but think about 15 left and far which
many thanks. We have been given 5
days (very much needed) to refit and
reorganized and have moved back a few
miles and some good billets with cushions
formerly under German rule for last
4 years and what is more have secured
four houses in streets and an old factory.

Monday 21st Oct? I am not to have
written in middle of week but as you
will see have had my parcels full.

Coys progressing fast and over the
canal last Friday (as shown already reported).
Little real resistance and contact
country most necessary. Pulled out at
9.00 AM in rain and marched forward
about 22 miles halting for lunch at —
a big mining town, not damaged but
every house looted, every inferior broken
deliberately chinas & glassware on floor
and what the Bols could not carry
away he did his best to smash up
or throw into street. I never saw
such a sight and just out of
curiosity visited 2 chalybes and
a dozen smaller houses. In some

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everywhere. Reached — about 2:00 P.M. and got billets, the civilians could not do enough for us and even pressed us with what little food & drink they had. The girls saw these laid the table with their own napery and glass and folded the napkins!!! The Curé came in to show us one of his communion vessels one of our men had found & returned to him. He had not an altar feeling left, nor any bell in his church. A hard melt through playing Marselles and brought tears to civilians eyes in spite of their rejoicing. I never before have been so stirred & feel we have been instrumental a great satisfaction, in fact my own patrol was first in this village. Clean bed, formerly occupied by a German officer I had a good sleep.

Thursday 22 Oct Up early and away by 8:00 full south as did not know just how low was and yet wanted to move as far up as possible to be near our squadrons in front. Set out to see the enemy first and with small wounded 2 children and 2 villages seeing old Col Penhale

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one the way, always a cherry old soul
 with his 5 bars up and always
 speaks of Wood. Left lunch to see about
 bullets at — in case we could not
 make up and went on to — alone
 skimming old Buster back crossing a
 ditch over which bridge had been blown.

The Germans have made it difficult for
 our transport to keep up. Country low &
 covered with ditches full of water so
 cross country not possible. Reached
 forward Bde with which B was
 working and saw a sign on door
 of cottage. No one in, but soon
 Sam's Stoker arrived and I asked
 for Mac. He said Major Mac Ewen
 was killed yesterday morning and
 is being buried now in village church
 yard. Went over about 1/2 mile but
 too late and met the General, Cuckshutt
 just returning. Miles of 4th Btn
 had buried him. Taffers had bearers
 and hands. They had used me
 yesterday but among to now had
 not received them (they enclosed)
 but had a message ordering my
 people up and arranged for bullets
 and had lunch with Gen Cuckshutt
 who is being relieved and thought me

should be his, but no, we must report
 to and carry on with incoming shell
 Before the push off at 9.00 AM yesterday
 Mr Emmott (front line being in the village)
 reconnoitered to see if patrols could get
 through and finding them M. 6 posts
 about 500 yds away decided not to risk
 patrols and came back to base in outskirts
 of village. Then shelling spasmodically.

Mr Emmott just reached his base & 3
 men who had left with him when he
 heard "the odd shell" coming from a H.V.
 gun along way off and apparently
 "very hot". He said "Push for this one
 loads". The men flapped & he bent
 over head his base. Shell landed
 in garden just behind them, a hedge
 between making a 25 foot crater 6 feet
 deep. He was hit in 3 places. One
 hole you could put your fist in in right
 shoulder, another in thigh and again
 grazed at waist & S.B. belt cut. No one
 else (or even base) touched. Street
 was with him at once, got a stretcher
 and started to cut off jacket and apply
 field dressing to shoulder. He grunted
 once but said not how he was conscious
 & drew on spot in 10 minutes, a callant
 and brilliant officer, a loyal and faithful

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went A here

friend (my closest one here) beloved
 and respected by every officer every
 W O L H and most highly praised for his
 work during last 5 days. He went first
 before committing his men and took
 the risk himself everytime. His squadron
 had the life sucked out of it. I enclose
 a letter about one ~~and~~ little thing he
 did on 9th and about which he never
 said a word, and now know that it
 would be known as I only got the letter
 yesterday. A line before which will be
 forwarded on — read which was
 enemy barrage line that day, after
 coming back to me from a reconnaissance,
 he reported and said you return of will
 follow after I take another look. Later I
 found he had gone back to bring out
 a wounded man who had cried out to
 him, & he had promised to help, and he
 got him out too.

His cheerfulness and sunny feet have
 always been an inspiration to me.

"Because of you we will be glad & gay.
 Remembering you we will be brave & strong,
 And hail the advent of each dangerous day,
 And meet the last adventure with a song."
 Had his fourth pad that night had a
 long talk with Gordon Cocksbutt but
 could not sleep.

It seems that the best of us wait & wait & wait for the "odd shell" and then, "no blighty" but "good night".

Rackham up late with rations. Tried to arrange relief for the 2 squadrons in line and sent out necessary orders.

Chatted to 3 little French girls in an Mess so bright & sunny. Langlass says 2 outdoor not over 15 bath in a family way and the 2nd time for one.

A blue grey haired, but undecayed man told me last in Aug 14, the Huns came into his corner shop and demanded a room. His wife was under 5 days of childbirth in the old one he had over the door on a corner & said he could not move her. He was told he did not need to. They went up stairs pulled her off the bed & threw her out the window she screamed as when she died on the paved road. I believe it. Beasts incarnate they are from the dancer to the workman in the shop with minds perverted by culture into a condition of educated savagery towards all but Germans. Can any of us stop until we have them on their knees and have guaranteed to these poor souls what material recompensation we can

Wednesday 23rd Oct Bde pulled out and
 moved into Chattan and we all improved
 our quarters. Very busy all AM w office
 arrangements for tomorrow and about
 ration as impossible to get here with
 horses had to unload some waggons.
 Saw Street, Campbell & Leonard to get
 certain verbal reports. All have done well
 and their work has materially assisted
 and expedited the infantry advance.
 few casualties light, except for four
 Mac. Visited his grave in churchyard.

21 civilians killed by shells in
 village, all in one cellar being buried.
 One of the Btrs furnished waggons
 for them. It was very impressive.
 Rode forward after lunch and visited
 Street and his Party on — —
 road. They had had a quiet day
 except for a little harassing shell
 firing on main road. D Squadron
 back again and gave Jimmings O.P.
 & heard dinner in Chattan while
 we had nicely settled but order came
 to move back to — (here) tomorrow
 AM and somewhat rest and refit
 regiment & for me to report to
 Carl. Got out now order was to
 return to bed but not to sleep.

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Thursday 24 Oct. started back at 8.30 and did not reach Corps until 11.30. Tried to ride along low path by canal but got blocked at a "blow" bridge and had to go around. Small work regiment to — at 9.00 getting there about noon. Friday. Had safe factory interview with Gen. B. B. B. Lunched with Sellman & (his) Charles Tupper with whom we went to VCC in 1899.

Got Corps to inquire about reinforcements & remnants. Got back to regiment about 3.00 & found them comfortably settled here, horses under cover & good billets for old and cumbrous even sweeping out stables for us.

Old Dean has just as good room as I have with bed & clothes. Letter from Sally expecting to leave France next Saturday. I have been given 5 days and got out a letter carrying what I want done. A lot of British prisoners were kept here at a large B.B. shop roundhouse and chemical works used by Germans as a munition factory. Stories about their treatment terrible. Half starved diseased and beaten. Have passed over Woodman's gun "Penny's" &

squadron. Slept better.

Friday 25 Oct / sent cable "Go ahead with distribution" but they are temporarily suspended so it did not get off. Letters from home with B/ppt office which I like very much. Letters from Sally made quickly. Hat and daddery inspection in afternoon. Good news from front where Corps is temporarily at a standstill at Canal and don't attempt to cross into city of — falls which is being outflanked to south. Plotted my war map and game very gratifying.

Spam! gift my Dad in Paris & London (Sam warned about Sarah who is now at Vernet and says no trouble about her passport to England) Very busy all day. Got officers walking at their war diary reports, and framed a letter asking for an increase of 150 men in strength of regiment as well as leave, sick and details among not enough men to mount all our horses. Got no news but away to base. Had a game of bridge in evening with Jennings Douglas & Smith.

Saturday 26 Oct Inspected regiment on
field near mine and had a little drill.

They do by to clean up and run out
well in spite of dirt. Spencer arrived from
coast (5 days march now) with 112 remnants
which I distributed letting the squadrons
choose in turn. A fair lot of bances
only. Batches clean clothes for men
and pay parade in afternoon. Gen

Brubell called & we had a nice chat
mentioning his Emy. "A very lovable
boy" as he spoke of him and one
impossible to replace. Street

of Hyde went on leave. Capt Shutt is
to go to. I had a note from him.

Had a talk with old Leslie as he is
sick in bed and must by get him
home if I go. Although says he wants
to stay as long as I do, even if his
fat at times make him a cripple.
He does not want to go on leave.

We are getting a very good allotment
3,2 men & 4 officers next week.

Saw Thompson (paymaster with Wood)
Read Times and mail in evening.

Draft of 11 men only came. I need
60 more. Not very encouraging.
Ordinance new equipment coming
up in good shape.

Sunday 27 Oct Slept in a little & had a hot bath, Leslie looking after me. Spent morning in office, attended stables and fished about in P.M. until Alex Greenless turned up & we had a nice chat. His R.R. Blw is rapidly repairing one line through here & hope to have trains up in a week. They do wonderful work.

Enclose the "Gazette desardennes" a paper published in France during Germany's occupation, also a picture of Ben Lapsitt. Letters from Sally a week old. They came back several some times. Hope he had a safe crossing yesterday and is in England now but cannot hope to know for 4 or 5 days. Travelling not very comfortable. No word about my leave for which I applied a week ago. Rain in P.M. so did not go out for a ride as had intended.

Hope they leave me alone here for a few days more.

Want to write Father for his birthday, also Cal Mrs Emw so well
love

Love
Jbb