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Saturday
11.01 PM 21-7-77

Dear Mother

Only your short letter of 25 June this week with enclosures and a nice long one from Estelle which I have already answered, but perhaps something before I close tomorrow your letters have a more normal tone devoid of wishes and make me feel very much happier about you. I do hope you are gaining strength every day and at last enjoying summer weather.

I both smile very cheerfully and is making best of situation at T. A. and I think enjoying looking after herself.

She certainly made a very good bargain about house and decided for the best. We are both beginning to look forward to Paris. The D. & E since you severed your connection have become a crowd of aimless wind bags to my way of thinking and make more dissatisfied the little they do than all the rest of real workers together. This remark is for publication if care to use it !!!

Monday 16th July. Kate married and Aunt Elizabeth after finishing diary letter last night but not at much length.

Had a marching band parade on school square which makes a very good place and then went out to drill field.

where they went on with individual training the troops. Attended regimental stables and dismounted drill in the afternoon. Strickland and Spencer got a lorry down with me to make some purchases but did not manage a dip in the sea. The farmer gave to my affidavit one way back and I mailed it to Father receipt # 46 one evening. Miss birthday box from Aunt Elizabeth. Fairs light soaps, maple sugar, soap, cold cream and 2 silk handkerchiefs from Fara, most acceptable. Letter from Edith still at Colwood, such a sweet one. Wrote Sarah read Times and retired.

Tuesday 17th July. Find that the course gave the Sergeants Thasgenen their great confidence and are much pleased. Individual training is what the men want and they are now getting it. Jumped Peggy but as usual had to whip her over.

In office until lunch. Hanson away seeing one of his French girls so arranged for Cockshutt to get away with a conducting party and put out a special order myself.

Spoke to John Luby the officer I had to make some unfavorable report about and who is ordered back to civilian life.

Wrote to his Father explaining that he was not naturally suited for a military

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carer but he did not want it. Listered
 to corporals on "Military Report and
 discipline" for 3/4 hour after lunch. Had a
 talk with R.S.M. who is a little bit autistic
 but a fine straightforward clean living old
 chap but a little bit old. Was a Sgt with
 Machine in Egypt in 83 and is over 60 years
 old with about 8 ribbons. Attended
 evening studies which are not running
 right yet so got out a memorandum about
 them for all concerned. Woodman took
 his car on a motor bike and has gone
 to #22 C.C.S. I think cavalry officer
 should stick to their horses as he is
 2nd cavalry, (Spencer collars) but
 they are a great commiserate getting about
 and some of our chaps were always
 in one or two. Chatted to Hazard in
 evening and made Aunt Elizabeth Elaine
 & family. Normal.

Wednesday 12th July Rather boring.
 Took whole regiment over to have
 our box respirators and out in a gas
 chamber. Each man has to stay 10
 minutes in real gas with his tin. Always
 find some awkward as have to take off
 glasses which perhaps makes matters
 worse. To put it on unless the gas is very
 bad. I saw Surge Fraser of London
 budging up as a draft to B.M. He

has played the game and seemed to come
over. He mentioned about Wood. Told him
where I was and gave him a standing
invitation. See Mr Gruchy has been
wounded and Percy Manson killed. I seem
to come to most of those who stay long
enough in the game. Also sent Carting got
an M. C. They are his fine boys and the
family should be proud of them. I hope they
are spared. Included going over to see
Mr Jackson but heard he had been 'shared'

The Sioux back but haven't seen him
yet. He saw Sarah again last Sunday.

No mail but delicious 4 lbs of candy (from)
dear little Estelle (an immensely sweet woman)

I wonder why I have such a liking for
sweets as it is not usually a masculine
taste. Sgt Falconer is coming back to
night after about a years absence.

Thursday 19th July. Made arrangements
about musketry. Rained in A.M. so sent
horses out for exercise as field too wet

Went over with horses with Cameron
who is taking stangless horse. Several
cases of mange (bad grooming) but
amongst animals recently put up
and so no reflection on me. I should
have up it however. Rode to my own
bake and inspected all bullets with Capt. Bess

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acting M.O. We have really splendid cooks for

the line which means a great deal.

Said good-bye to poor Dubois and offered
again to do what I could. Held office at 2.00

and recommended a corporal. Hanson had

his periodic talk with subalterns to tell

them a few things and let them air any

grievances and make any suggestions.

Letter from Sarah. No real dear Eselle at

some length. Read Sat Eve Posts that

dear Mother has sent me from March to

June inclusive. Such good reading in

them. Justly Casnapoleon also to hand.

F.G.C. in fact long postponed. Had

delicious stewed turnips for dinner. We

have now an excellent cook too. Forgot

to send cable for which I am so sorry.

Friday 20th June Signed a few applications

for P.O.'s leave and then started out for

a reconnaissance of a part of our new

front with Fernis B. No so far away but

a long jaunt never the less. We climbed up

our bit of ~~the~~ Cassin and reflected on

famous battle there of Sept 1915. Yikes

how is the dear Mother!! How our people

did what they accomplished with

insufficient guns and ammunition

besides here. Our heavies going pretty

steadily and German front still

marked by a continuous row of burning
shells 6" diam and larger. Very little
came back from "Fritz" but they say he
shells according to a friend who came
at night by which we chaps set their
watches. I have a trap in a village
a little way back into which he drops
a few "silent bombs" at 10.00 PM & 3.00 AM
(naval guns). He gets a few civilians
as well as soldiers as many still running
at night and many families living in
cellars. Food blown off shop left
a cement where we had lunch the night
before but indications of popular business
picking it up and carrying on business
just the same. This spirit is wonderful.

Had another glass of beer then after
our long walk back from trenches
and machine. Told us how a shell went
through top story and 3 big pieces of
shrapnel through her bed but as she
knew the bomb she was "done for sure"
and mended the shells the next day.

Picked out a cross country route which
we may have to use and get back in 2 hours.

Father's agents had called a meeting
and were waiting for me so I went
dinner and met anxious to get
then troubles straightened out. Got

"
 brought at lights out 9.15 and found they
 had saved me a letter. No letters. Got
 interested in Casimiro's letters and read most
 nearly 1.00.

Saturday 21st July. Sent squadron commanders
 down to range and went over to drill field
 myself where I watched the various troops
 at individual training and then put the
 Wake lance around the course. Rode home

with Ferris and after half an hour in
 office attended stables and examined a
 reluctant suspected of mange. Was careful
 to wash my hands afterwards as I believe
 that is how I got the very warm rash.

Inspected transport after lunch and
 was pleased. How casually brigade staff
 very far from us so robust and cheerful
 and look them up very soon as I have
 not written straighten up for some time.

Short letter from Smith. He is warning
 a little about getting a stiff arm. I

Walked down to see Cybil but A.C. was
 out. Intended going over to range but
 was too late so came up to my room
 and read as a little tired after yesterday. I
 still have to wear my field boots and they
 are not comfortable for long walks.

Short letter from Sarah who went up
 to London for the day. Also many letters

in evening and again got interested in
Cremo. And read until 1.30 A.M. Now
Sunday 22 July. Up at usual hour, had
hot bath and changed. Heard a case of
drunkenness on conducting party under
Cockshutt which I remanded for further
evidence. Rode up to "B" with Cockshutt
and discussed business and war tax.

They are doing a lot of U.S. business now.
He had a letter from James McCullough
and seems to think they have made a
fortune. Charlie Watrous (Logan's brother)

was in France 14 months and then got
3 months to Canada and is not expected
back. Called on Camp Commandant
and witnessed a baseball match at "B". Had
a talk with MacEwen about his leave. He
says he found Sarah looking very well and
enjoyed so much being with her on
leave. He was never more likely to come
back. Have just had our high tea and

read my Times. No Canadian mail today
so nothing special to answer. Tell Father
enclosed what I have seen about war tax
and would like a few more particulars
when he gets time. Parker expected a cable
from him this week about crane but
perhaps later. Excuse slipped letter
Very much done Dbb