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Reed Oct 15 Sunday 9-9-17
5.00 P.M.

Dearest Mother

Am just back from 3 "chuchas" of polo which I thoroughly enjoyed and my pony is improving. There were a dozen out and as only four a side we change each game so and all get a chance. We are mostly novices but have two old hands to coach and the whole regiment from which to choose ponies. I have tried all summer to get the young fellows interested and have at last succeeded although I fear we will only have a few weeks more but will take advantage of it. Excuse any officer afternoon drill who really likes to play.

The second and third boxes arrived today Mother dear and will be most useful. Very many thanks. The package was badly torn and has to be retied up by postal people in London England which accounts for delay.

Monday 3rd Sept. A beautiful day so got up early and after looking in office started off for front line with Smith to see how our working party of 125 were situated.

Called in at Corps "6" to complain about so many being taken away which makes it hard to look after horses. Fasse VC. DSO was very kind about it and made

3 (wrong no)

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The urgency of the work on the tramways
and the reputation my men have as good
workers his excuse. I hope they won't ask
for any more. Rode right up to In passing
the village Wood was in East Feb and
March before he moved south for the show.

Sent our horses around to ~~the~~ as we were
making a circuit and put on our tin hats
and box respirators. Found half our
party in cellars near an old mine shaft
and Reese (my officer) messing in another
cellar with the tramway engineer officer.

Three of our men had been slightly
hit by steel splinters just before we
arrived and I spoke to them, one will have
to be sent the ambulance. They are lucky
sometimes as they might just as easily
have been serious cases. We then started
off and visited an observation post we
supply further south and then pushed
on till ~~from~~ where the other half of
party is working under Grenlay. They
are trying to push their tramways right
up to front line and even now are
supplying all forward batteries with
ammunition which is a great saving
on horses and will mean much
when the bad weather comes. It is an

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idea that should have been exploited long ago, but we must live and learn. Saw them also taking up a 6" how on the little truck, gauge 60 centimeters (about 24"). They have cut the number of lorries also on the road in half which is a great saving. About 2 miles walk along the front to the other party who are in old German dug outs which are very good even if they face the wrong way. Grenier had a peep glass mirror along outside and was beautifully fitted up and white washed. Left about 4:00 and passed old 12th battery on the way but the Taggart & Betts away. Reached our horses about 5:30 but very tired as quite a climb and a hot day. So I accepted dinner with 124th pioneers (Chadwick of Toronto) and rode home by moonlight quietly. Getting back about 11:00. Things comparatively quiet all day, although one or two interesting air fights. Letter from Sarah. Killed a bat in my room.

Tuesday 4th Sept. McEwen has cracked a rib so cannot ride for a few weeks although around with his clapped up. Too bad as it puts him out of polo. Made the wakeover to the field and watched the officers class and the law

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recruit classes. Must say that the reinforcements coming from Hamilton Depot are not as good as those from west and do not think they represent Ontario's best. However if I could keep them together for a month and put them over the jumps ~~for a~~ every day under a good instructor they improve a lot. Have about 40 at present. Examined a new "edifice" being put up by "C" as a mess room. Where the old S&S gets his material from beats me, but it means a lot to the men for the winter. Attended noon stables. Held office after lunch and had a fine game of polo about 4:00.

Football team beaten by R.E.A. after a close game so we are out of it but they have about 6000 to draw from. Chambers of one of the Machine Gun companies for dinner and gave us a lot of particulars about details of fighting at last show. They shot 14 times within 15 feet of their guns. Got together a few of Woods things I still have to send back to Warbur. Wrote Sarah and retired.

Fear Sarah is working very hard at her counters and hope she won't overdo it but it is splendid useful work and so much appreciated.

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Wednesday 5th Sept. Spent an hour in
office and then started off for Cavalry
Brigade with Smith V.O. & M.O. the others
compiling in R.C.D. Sports having gone ahead.

Were able to ride across country road to way
as crops (except roots) pretty well off, and
going good across the stubble. M.O.'s
horse fell at a bank and he got quite a
shake up and a bad cut on chin but
after first aid was able to proceed. We all
had lunch with Col Straubenzie and
then rode over to "their field". Got 2nd
and 3rd at tent pegging. Harry V.C. of
Strathcona's getting 1st. My horse
refused triple bar but Smith got 3rd
in jumping. Douglas 1st in high
jump. All the others stayed down over
night for Fort Garry Horse Show
tomorrow but I hocked back with M.O.

as do not like to leave my command over
night. Had late dinner at 9.30.

The tremendous bombardment woke me at
3.00 AM on Thursday 6th and a heavy
rain (a direct result I'd sure) followed at
4.00. My room was lit up by flashes
and I could not sleep much so got up
and watched, wondering about my
working party. Inspected work on

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our stables with Joe Evers and after
cleaning up in office and recommending
1 officer & 5 men for immediate awards
had an early lunch and started back to
Canadian Cavalry Brigade for horse show.

The Indian cavalry were wonderful
in tent pegging with teams of 4 abreast
with lance but competed amongst
themselves only. My MCO's team won
the sword pegging each man "carrying"
his peg which was better even than
the Indians did although several of
their teams carried 3. We were very
pleased. Our officers team was 3rd
due to a mishap in not starting
together, otherwise they would have
won also. The RCB's were not in it,
making a very poor showing. A heavy
rain spoiled the jumping although
my team did fairly well but was
not in the money. I saw General
Seely, and the other C.O's and got back
about 9.00 after a very pleasant day.
to hear 1 officer & 16 men were gassed
and wounded in bombardment last
night but no particulars yet.

Bartholomew's came like black work
from Paris which is a great scare.

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Friday 7th left Burton's field with classes as I believe in supervising the training of my officers and myself. Smith looking after work on stables. Very foggy and field greasy. Heard most of our gassed are external from "mustard gas" and although painful and slow but fatal. Some of the wounded not serious. Tried to play polo in P.M. but too slippery. Selected regimental colors old blue and F. emb. grey, being the three colors of Div. from which regiment was formed. Am. having camp arrangements made and will roll on there tomorrow. 6 Canadian letters workers before going to and while at Placid, Fathers about censorship and my estate, one from Jack Labatt and several others, but all so welcome. Will answer direct later. Read Sat Ev Post & Times and retired, after reading another hat that presented in slaying around in spite of a few windows. Use a hockey (English) stick instead of tennis racket. Slept better although am getting to be quite a dreamer which is new for me and cannot explain it. The dear boy often figures with me as is only natural.

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Saturday 8th Left Fargat my cable this week for which I am very sorry. I suppose you were all very glad to hear about Broke getting the V.C. but he well deserved it and now heads the British list and nearly equals Guynier the French high man. Appointed a V.C. card committee so that there will not be the rush there was last year. Wrote Walter last night a few lines. Again very foggy on field but lost both officers and recruits of classes other jumps with arms folded and no reins. The horses will all go if they are left alone and do not have their mouths jerked, so this is the best way until these so called "well trained" drafts know how to ride. Some get over on horses neck, some on his rump and occasionally on the ground but I fear get very little sympathy and are not allowed to laugh at each other's mishaps.

Campbell rejected "acting" capt during Woodman's absence. I shall give him the pay at any rate. Senior officer voted one arrangement of regimental colors but did not show the good taste I would have liked. Played polo, good exercise for horse and man. My pony improving. Nice letter from Mrs.

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in which he mentions your trip. The question of Canadian leave is bothering us both a little as if Sarah cannot return we both agree she had not better go which would be hard for us both. We will see however what Sir George Peck says in answer to Father's letter and do all we can.

Sunday 9 Sept a glorious day and was ashamed to only heat breakfast at 9.00. Spent morning in office and drained stables and house. I am trying to get better fat against bad weather later and am grazing them as much as possible. They look fairly well. Played polo this P.M. I am miffed in beginning of letter and have just now returned from high tea, cold beef, salad, raspberry pie and the contents of a box of sweets & cake from the Paymaster's Mother. Russian news very depressing. If we only could all press together I believe the end would soon come. Germans are pushing steadily away as I write but fear the reverse on the eastern front. One Canadian mail this P.M. which I will now read. XXXX

Later Have just had my greatest pleasure over here - reading all your dear letters. Mothers of Aug 26th with enclosures

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Albre Aug 12th with snaps of garden, and
of Aug 22nd from Placid. Dubharrif you
played in same house as Sarah at near Milton
Lake and know you thought of us there,
2½ years ago. It is a beautiful spot and
we hope to visit it again. Estelle's
enclaves and P.S. of Aug 12th with
letter from Adela, poor child she has had
a strenuous time but I know her happiness
now will compensate. Cannot add much
of Aunt Tilly's letter in fact of Aunt Emma
and Elysa either, I suppose Walter had no
idea of doing anything! Then I had a letter
from Jack from Magnolia to say he was
sending a box of fudge and Father's
business letter of Aug 12th just before he
left which I will try and answer tonight.
One from Sarah Mica one of my men,
wrote yesterday which is very quick. She
has been out several times with White.

Blackham has just been down for a
little chat. He lives in attic here, such
a nice chap and so considerate. He is
asking for a weekend to Paris. Mrs. Emma
also hopes to go next week. His leg
is quite painful although he went up
in front in a side car today. Very
much love and thanks for all dear
letters and good wishes. Lhb