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Sunday
18-8-18

Dearest Mother

A quiet Sunday so far, a peaceful, beautiful day and so far have not been away from camp. Men enjoying a half holiday and the officers writing or reading in their tents or dugouts. Had lunch an hour ago and will now try and get this letter completed.

Tuesday 3 Aug 18 Results of Corps operations during past 5 days very satisfactory. 10,000 prisoners over 500 officers and 154 guns, a record advance of nearly 14 miles in 3 days and casualties for the same time about half the prisoners. How is that?

Horses and grazing as country all around covered with damaged crops ready now for cutting and no one takes it so our beasts get the benefit. Such is war, economy & thrift do not go hand in hand with it and never will. Few do the work of one under quiet conditions so as to have the 10 available when there is work for them all and more to do at certain periods. Smith S.V.O.

Making a round of the squadrons to see condition of horses. Rode over to G.O.C. but he was farward in his car so only got some papers, and had a chat with

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The Brigade Major. Things seem to be at a standstill which seems to be as far as we could push further if we tried hard enough. But we now have confidence in our leader and his ability to gain most with fewest losses.

Formulated a scheme for tomorrow embracing the new tactics the G.O.C. was applied. Another Canadian mail & letter from Father which I have since answered by cable and letter. Getting a V.O. from a neighboring unit, and a post had lunch with a very interesting chap with all his other brothers in the ministry. He showed me his little book of poems and I must get a copy.

Have dug out the floor about 18" deep so that we can sleep safely when Hun comes over to bomb at night. All the men are sleeping in holes for similar reasons.

A new search light put up near us and some arches which will I hope make the Hun fly higher. A plane last night went over us I am sure not more than 200 feet up.

Wednesday 14th August. Did a tactical scheme with cycles in morning embracing new ideas and hope we will have a chance to put it into execution.

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Passed a derelict "whippet tank" which had
burnt up. Carcase of driver charred to a cinder
still in seat! About 50 cavalry horses
and a few men buried near by, the scene
of a tragedy. I suppose when looking at
German machine gun nest in a beech
wood. Several dead horses about still
with faces and hands black as ebony and
bodies inflated, disgusting and shocking
sights; although while I know that
every live German is a skunk and has
the wrong ideas yet the dead and
wounded deserve our sympathy and
respect. Received dear Wood's jacket and
breeches, the latter very welcome and
well used jacket in winter. Both fit me
very well. Many thanks for sending
them so promptly. Sent afternoon in
office and made three recommendations.
We would have had 3 dozen if we had
had the chance we should have been given.
Smith's friend Cooper and young
Gooderham called. Collected a few
souvenirs and sent them to England
with a few souvenirs and Wood's jacket
and British warms which I don't need
at present. Hope they get over all right.
Very heavily belated at night in spite
of starlight. Some falling within 50 yds.

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but new charges well scattered. We get warning as a special racket is sent up as they pass front line and we can always tell them if their machines from ours. They start the show about 9.30 and as usual we sit up until we see ~~the~~ one plane caught in search light when there is a regular fusillade from all sides but hard to know if we hit him or not. The bombs have sticks about 1.8" long no bottom and make no cratering bursting flat in all directions and are most dangerous than a shell. Moon getting brighter so if good weather holds we will have many nights.

Thursday 15 Aug. Hard to realize summer passing so quickly but the Bom crew has favored us with beautiful weather for our operations, which is largely a great factor towards success. As satisfied with placing of bombs so went about the wood and tried to scatter them in more smaller groups. Maho still lame and I am so sorry to miss riding him and the long matches seem to set him back each time. Went over war diary and recorded a lot of minor events, but of nothing very high as important. Rode over to B & C Squadron and had a look

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at base. all very dissatisfied to be broken up
as we are. Some of them have very poor
facilities for water as our valley contains the
only little stream for miles around.

Had lunch with Woodman's detachment
and heard about Taylor's effort from the boy
himself. He deserves great credit. If the
regiment is to be broken up like this
just when our chance does come, and
I know personally of several occasions
where we could have loosened things up
in front of infantry it greatly discourages
all my work and effort. Back about 4:00.

Went at bathhouse is a well ordered German
bath house with tiled floor out of some
poor Frenchman's house. Am still fixing
myself & they are hard to get rid of. Wrote
Father and Baby. Sent weekly cable.

They shelled us for 3 hours after dark
and killed some men, burned in some wood
Barracks not so bad, due to search light
I think I had 8 V.O. both turned out & helped.
Did not sleep much.

Friday 16 Aug Weather holds beautiful.

Signed a number of letters and started out
to visit A Squadron & a detachment of
"C" under Campbell. Had lunch with
Lansan and heard some of their recent
efforts. Much back from leave. Spencer

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away as no restrictions on present allotment.
and hoping to get away about 1st Sept if
O.C. is authorized. 4 go. More woods benches
which fit beautifully. No more much the
same in stature. The new boats are
broken in and I can now wear them with
comfort. The box of Imperial Mixture
most welcome as also some cake from Edna.
Had letters from Menon and Edith Kallan.

Back about 4.00, walked horses most of way
as intensely hot. They are making an
effort to bury dead horses but stench in
places almost sickening. I put on mail
on return. Had some writing. Was
sitting out in front of wood reading S.E.P.

before sunset when a man came in
ordering my H.B. detachment to a front line
rendezvous and to be ready to move
from there at dawn. Made arrangements
and used what little daylight was left.

Turned in in clothes for a couple of hours.
Saturday 17 August Left camp shortly
after midnight and marched about 9 miles.
Pretty difficult as roads rough and wide
everywhere until we struck the main
road. Had to gallop past one shell
corner, six landing near before
column got through. Found what we
brought over French battery in the left

casco where we were to assemble and
scattered horses and men as best we could in
dark in sunken trenches. Were shelled
intermittently until dawn when the French
appeared and what we thought was one
battery was about 4 brigades of 75's and
one of 155 (your new shell) which put
down a wonderful barrage and nearly
broke our line away. Was talking to a
French Col and was glad of this
opportunity to see their splendid artillery
and especially the gun for which we
are making shells. Their guns are
smaller, lighter and simpler than
ours I should say and certainly can
be loaded and fired more quickly. There
were also splendid. Their air craft were
over us too. Saw them bring in about
200 swinish looking Bash including
several officers. Had a long talk with
a French M.O. who had been taken
prisoner at Verdun and exchanged
after 18 months. A very interesting chap.
There was no chance to use us much as
we would have liked to operate with the
French and about 2.00 we were pulled
back and got to camp about 5.00 P.M.
and had to wash & clean up. I quite
enjoyed the experience and a bundle

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of letters when I got back including yours
 from Mother of July 16th. Read until dark
 which now stops everything and sat thinking
 over my situation in the bush. Retired about
 9.30 and slept until flies awakened me. They
 are very bad but no wonder. Men collected
 a big pile of German's British salvage
 yesterday including a cart which I will
 have fixed up for my personal use. I got
 a nice little 4 wheeled affair.

Sunday 18 Aug Threatened rain in morning
 but cleared later and now a beautiful cool day.
 Had an extra bat bath in bushes and tried to
 get rid of lice but fear in my bed and
 blankets by this time. Have not moved
 out today. Worked in office at routine work
 and inspected boxes all noon including
 several wounded ones the RO is treating.

Byrne was hit in ankle by a piece of
 shrapnel of fear will be a cripple for life.
 Had Lynn Plummer & Woodman for lunch,
 the former a cousin of Mammie's. One
 solitary shell was used last night and it
 seemed pretty good when it arrived so
 I am evidently moving his guns
 back. Well had sleep of nothing turns
 up for balance of day. Sally expected
 to attend a YWCA conference in Paris
 this weekend. Much love Off