



West Down South  
Salisbury Plain

T.S.S. "MONTEZUMA."

8th November 1914

Dearest Mother

Your letter of the 26th Oct. reached me last night as was as welcome as was the sun which shone yesterday for the first time in weeks. I sent my letters ashore at Devonport at the time my cable was sent and you should have received same very shortly after you wrote the above letter.

We really had a lovely day yesterday but the soil is clay and it would take weeks for things to dry up I should think. Today it has not rained but the sun only showed himself occasionally. The Colonel is on leave for the week end and I took the officers for a ride yesterday afternoon for a fifteen mile ride through the villages of Enford, Fittleton and Netheravon and then home across the <sup>downs by</sup> moonlight. It was beautiful but rather hard to find ones way as all the country looks alike. The villages in the valley are so pretty and quaint, thatched roofs and high floors. We passed two inns, the Swan and



the Fox and Hounds. We had a pot of beer at the farmer in the "inn parlor."

Today we had a church parade and marched through the mud to the service about a mile from here. Almond was there but our own chaplain, a Presbyterian, Cornett by name preached and gave a short but really good address. I wrote Ith a few days ago and expect he will have it by now also sent farther an illustrated paper. The papers here are all discussing seriously the necessity for compulsory enlistment. The volunteering has fallen short of what is required and it is likely that drastic measures will have to be taken. I enclose the advertisement which all papers contain and which is seen everywhere. I also enclose a couple of maps which include the district we are located in. It is now rumored that we are not to leave England until March but it seems to me that this would be an unnecessary length of time to keep us here if troops are badly needed at the front in the meantime.



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Have not yet applied for leave to go to London as I am rather waiting to find out just what time will be best for me to go. As stated to Ibb there is some chance of my taking over the adjutantcy of the third Brigade. There are some things very much in favor of my doing so but on the other hand I would lose my own officers and such of my own men as are left me.

Properly managed cantions are quite legitimate and now that we are under the War Office it is not the business of the Canadian W.C.T.U. and other parodies to criticize or comment on how things are run. I thoroughly believe in temperance in its correct sense but not in the interpretation that is usually put on the word in Ontario.

I did not know that Jerry Fitzgerald was a rider but think that such an exercise would be just what he needs. I am not surprised that Mills offered his services but have already told you that he had been given a temporary commission in the R. F. A. and I



sincerely hope that he will make good. Margaret Williams has rather changed her tune. Laughing it is alright for a girl for a time but it is too dreary and wasteful for anyone to want to keep it up indefinitely. I'm glad that the Barrons have lost their man but there should be little or no difficulty in securing more or less capable maids when things everywhere are so dull.

I wrote Elaine last week and will try and drop a line to Jones and Estelle during this but really very little or nothing to write about as the work here is most uninteresting and really no progress being made. The necessities of this war have entirely altered artillery tactics and little of the work we have carried out in the past is of much value. Now it is a case of digging in guns, wagons and everything else usually at night and moving either forward or back and digging in again the next night. A handy man with a pick and shovel is of so much good use nowadays as a really

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highly trained gunner.

Our mess has improved considerably in the last few days and we are now really getting very fair food and service. We also got horse blankets yesterday so that the animals will not be quite as much exposed to the wet as they have been heretofore. Peggy is doing her work well but is still pretty thin. She has become great friends with my other horse and when they are separated there is no end to the whinnying and neighing that goes on. We have a fox terrier from Regina as our section mascot and he is a great pet. Last night when I came in to go to bed I found him snugly ensconced on my blankets.

Best love to all  
your devoted son  
Wood