

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

May 7th/17.

Lieut. Col. Ibbotson Leonard,
Canadian Corps Cavalry Regiment,
B.E.F., France.

My Dear Ibb,-

April 30th. Arrived home at 11.15 from Ottawa and spent the afternoon at the office. Mr. Morgan says he can take the new contract with \$2,000 actual cost which I think is rather low. He has already ordered the necessary steel castings for bushings from 5" to 4½" down and says he may want two or three tools as he gets a little further along.

Bought a 38" x 10 ft. Stationary Boiler and 8 x 8 Leonard Engine from Heaman Coal yard. This boiler has been in use for 28 years and seems perfectly solid in tubes and shell and only gone in the smoke box. We will clean and test and send to George Evans. This speaks well for our manufacture and the care that the boiler has had since.

We have received in all over 500 cards, telegrams and letter of sympathy from dear Woods death.

Shells for the month shipped total 10338 which is a little below our average,

May 1st/1917. Looked over E.W.L.'s affairs and talked with Mr. Holmes about repairs and War tax account, the latter we will have to prepare for now before we close the books and for this purpose will have an interview with Sir George Gibbons next week.

Attended Huron & Erie and Canada Trust and decided to buy some more land in connection with the erection of our building on the market square which we are afraid will be too small for our use.

May 2nd/1917. Elaine and Stephen came in at 11.30, both looking well.

Discussed 96 ft. extension to the West end of our machine shop and concluded to go on with it if tenders are in anyway reasonable and move the entire shell making into it. This will leave us all of the mounting shop for our own business and making smoke stacks, fitting up boiler fronts which I now think is necessary. When we get this contract filled we will take up the matter of a brick wall and changes to the mounting shop roof, will advise you later as to construction and send you a plan.

May 3rd/1917. Arranged to make a couple of secondhand boilers out of old shells and tubes for Evans' trade, he seems to find a place for this class of material. Conferred with Messrs. Holmes & Morgan and have concluded to carry pattern account and charge fuel account with several types engines patterns and greatly reduce our high speed patterns. This will give us considerable room in the York Street shed for storing our surplus machinery which is badly needed.

May 7/17.

We have now about 36,000, 5" shells in the yard which will complete our last order for this size. Concluded to raise the wages of some of the leading men in the shop as others are paying more than we are for the same class of work.

May 4th/1917. Paid \$3652.00 to 186 men including \$1247.00 piece work. Maitland is getting out 15 x 14 Leonard Ball engine from C.S. Hyman & Co. who have ^{not} used it for some years, in fact since they put in the gas engine. We are only paying \$150.00 for it which will give you an idea of the value of engines just now.

No shipment of 5" shells mark VII which we expected to have which was brought about by short inspection and Gunching in our machine shop in making the change from mark V to mark VII.

Looking over list of patterns with a view of destroying same. The account stands as \$18,000. in our books.

May 5th/1917. Sent over a couple of dozen papers (Advertisers & Free Press) to our friends and relatives containing account of Woods death.

Received \$4100. from the I.M.B.

George H. Evans sends us 15 sheets of account to charge with all sorts of charges. He has the only live agency so far this year.

Loaded car of 5" mark VII shells to-day 980.

Conversed with Mr. Holmes as to value of patterns and concluded we would strike off \$9050.00 which will reduce it to about what we think would be fair considering that some of them have not been used for 20 years. I will send you a list next mail with the size and value, it is really astounding. We will need every inch of the room if the extension goes up for storage.

A letter from Ike Robinson, Woods Paymaster, giving some of the details of the Dear Boys Burial, we are all very sad to-day.