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Sunday 18 Dec 1914
4.00 P.M.

My dearest Mother

As there has been no Canadian mail since last Sunday I have no letters or papers acknowledged this week. A letter from Hazel & Blotnie however came last night and may be a forerunner to some today or tomorrow.

I also had a letter from Frank who was still in England when he wrote and I heard that Edward was with 2nd P.A.C. and may be able to look him up this week although I am glad to say that I am a little more laid down now that I have taken over command of the "Canadian Light Horse".

I should have gazetted yet and it may take some weeks to come through but I have no doubt but that I will get the regiment and as I said last week feel very glad to have at last come into my own. It is also some compensation for Thomas waiting so long and for having stayed with the general.

As I had also cabled likely cable the word gazetted when it does come through and it would then do not harm to put a little note in local papers about it.

Had a letter from Dad before I cabled on Wednesday but have not been able to see him for nearly 3 weeks but will try and get up soon. I fear he is not quite comfortable in his new quarters.

12-III-17

Sunday 11th March after writing my diary letter went down to old Barber and then hurried down mess and saw to preliminaries for our farewell dinner to Strambler at which we had all the original officers of the three squadrons (13 in number?). We had a cocktail, soup, chickens a sweet and a brandy liquor and coffee. I proposed his health and wished him good luck and he replied very nicely and thanked us all for our support!

We sat around for a while and finally ended by playing poker until 3.00 AM with Dedman's results far yours truly. However I am very glad we gave him a good send-off.

Monday 12th March Dawson motor cycled up in front to see about the relief of our men in the trenches by General Hill who used to command the 1st Bn - which Campbell Becker was. Drove over to see a piece of ground on which we have permission to drill when the men come back. Felt sleepy after lunch as I keep such regular hours that I feel sitting up late. Went for a walk and later went down to old Barber as usual. Straw took dinner at Carps Hqts but later spent an hour in my room discussing regimental matters promotions etc and also thanked me for my support all along.

12-III-17

Tuesday 13th March. Straw left at 9.00 A.M. in a motor car with all his belongings having sent 5 horses down the day before and took over the command and spent the morning in the office getting his lunch with things there and later visited stables but nearly all the horses out as we had sent led horses up for afternoon bunch party which got back before sunset. Had a long talk with the three squadron commanders in the afternoon and later went for a ride by myself on the pony. He (Langdon) letters for a few weeks although the English mail much quicker and more regular, I suppose on account of leave being off. Barber and read until midnight as usual.

Wednesday 14th March. Found all our men looking frosty and warm after the long journey (4 1/2 hours) in the cave up to front where the air was bad and only candle light. However I hope the change here will soon pull them up. A lot have boils & skin trouble from too much "hully" and pork and beans and no potatoes or fresh vegetables, and all are "lousy". Ran in afternoon but walked to ~~in~~ and met Claude Hill on the way back. He looks very well. Note party to show my return so cabled "Both well" I

12-III-17

Thursday 15th March. All the men from the trenches had baths and some clean clothes although the supply ran out before they all got them. Decided to cast five sick and injured horses as no longer any use to us. Took a two hours ride and saw a German prisoners camp (500 of them) and also a new railroad under building in rear. A beautiful day with spring in the air and birds singing. Got letters from Sarah but no Canadian. Barber at 6.00 P.M. and read the "White Company" in the evening.

Friday 16th March. Had arranged to go up in front with C.O. of Motor Machine Gun Brigade but he could not get a car. Would have seen road if I had. Squadrons out for a route march and worked at saddlery in afternoon which is in bad shape. Took another long ride through a beautiful wood part of which is being already cut down for military purposes.

The M.O.'s birthday and he treated us to chicken and mashes and also had two of his friends for dinner. Sent old Barber some "furnier" for his garden. He is such a decent old cove and we all like him.

Saturday 17th March St Patrick's Day
and a Revolution in Russia !!!

and the U.S. still holding back because the American ship that was sunk without warning was NOT armed. Wilson will next stipulate the exact positions on the ocean where the U.S. must sink an American armed ship without warning by order to commit an "overt" act!!!

Had our first real mounted drill since last summer. Beautiful day and ground nice and dry. Inspected 12 dismounted men we have to again send up but we can spare them better as we now carry 10 extra men all the time. Had a dismounted drill in the P.M. and I later went for a 4 mile walk. Two letters from Sarah. Read Mich of Indar in evening.

Sunday 18th March Had back and at 10:00 had our first church parade since last August. Mc Greer took it for us and I think all the men liked it as I had no mounted parade and am giving them a half holiday this P.M. Inspected our rations and spent some time in the office and have been up here since finishing the paper about Russia. I do hope you are all well and good news from the Schaffel fields. Would add more dearest Mother
your loving son Str