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Western Archives, Western University

March 24-17
11:00 P.M.

Dearest Mother

Will start tonight (Saturday) as I may have a busy day tomorrow. Your letter of Feb 18 (5 weeks ago) came today, the first Canadian in nearly 3 weeks although some of the others got letters dated March 5th. Long gaps like this seem to separate us even more than usual but all the same I am glad to hear all well and your letter was most cheerful and a great relief. I do see our letters if you have not been correspondingly delayed.

Have had all the regiment together and we have managed some training although with interruptions and some very cold and slippery weather. It has done the men good however and they are looking better after their long spell in the trenches where they practically lived underground.

I also have a long and interesting letter from James which I will send on to you and answer in due course.

No, dearest Mother, I don't want another sweater and with my old "Yaggar" jacket and yours am very well supplied. I am also very well off for socks for some time to come. My Aunt Elizabeth, my mother and Grandma sent some light material

will do for the summer months and I have
 seven or 8 pairs of Alces and have
 spendid heavy ones for colder weather.
 Means not nearly as hard on each as the
 infantry as we have practically no marching
 and as Cavalry officers very few long spells
 in the trenches. I am wearing 1915 mas
 leggings and have two suits (1916 mas) to
 the good which I will send to England next
 month with my other surplus winter kit.

I have worn out my winter underwear
 (3 suits with mending) and have four
 or five suits of B.V.D. for the summer
 in good repair.

Father's letter of Feb 19th also came
 signed by Mr Holmes in the former's
 absence in Montreal. The contents seems
 very satisfactory.

Have just heard that one of our officers
 Leggo, attached to R.F.C. was shot down
 by a German "archer" and killed about
 2:00 this afternoon. A very fine chap
 too who left us about 3 weeks ago and
 fell very badly. I think I told you that
 Frank Lucas was also killed about a month
 ago during a raid.

Speaking of warwood I want to say
 that I have heard the "Witch of Endor" again
 and admire it so much. It grows on

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one and I want to add my small quota of well deserved praise for him. You might say how much I enjoyed it when you see him. I am going to pass it on to Wood and then to Sarah.

We had a 2 mile cross country run for the regiment this P.M. in which over 60 ran. It was quite a success and good exercise for the men I saw also as well as most of the other officers but I am not as good at these tests of endurance as I used to be, however I managed to finish about 2/3 of the way down the list.

I do feel for poor Uncle Jack and only wish I could do more. I am still smoking the pipe and tobacco he sent me at Mysore.

As you say all our recollections of Mysore are the sweetest one could have of any lady and I only wish I had been able to be more of her lately.

Glad your bazaar was such a great success but am sure that your work merited it. The costumes myself have been very effective. I wish I could have seen you all.

Dear Hyla is temp Lt. Col while AM. LO at ~~---~~ but you would not see his promotion of Canadian help as he is in the R.E. and quit out

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of the Canadian forces. I have not yet heard
 whether Harry Waltham has returned to
 France. Sarah had Joan to lunch and he
 then took her to a meal and tea at
 the Carlton. She speaks so highly of him and
 says I should be very proud of my "name sake"
 I should like to see Edward but find it hard
 to locate him and he has never written,
 however I will be on the lookout.

Am sure you will be glad when the cold
 is over as I know you find it trying. We
 have had an extraordinarily severe winter,
 snow most of the year with which is very
 unusual here. A lot of potatoes and other
 roots stored in cellars and fields have
 been frozen, the former are very hard to
 get up and better about 20 francs a
 kilo or about \$1.00 a pound.!!

My leave is now a long way off and
 if it were still on (all cancelled) it
 would be about half way towards my
 next one.

I will think over what you say about
 an operation on my nose and see what
 Wood thinks but I course won't attempt
 it at present and must say have been
 extraordinarily well and my "band" as
 announced today makes had as a
 good many younger chaps. In view

finished list of the officers. 2 miles in 13 1/2
minutes with two steep hills and was very
greasy and slippery. Alice's letters have
been missed and much but expect some
will turn up very soon. Hope dear Father
pups will and is not overtaxed, sometimes
felt a little anxious about him. Nearly
midnight so will finish tomorrow what
perhaps may be able to get a side car and
go up and see Wood.

Sunday 11:00 P.M. Up an hour earlier as
clock advanced one hour last night to
conform with the French. Telephoned
Wood and found he would be in and after a
little difficulty secured a side car and
started but about 11:00 and found him
about 1:30 after having covered about
23 kilometers partly "à pied" and only
got back in time for dinner at 7:30. He
is in a dugout and not very
comfortable and has suffered a little
from the cold weather which seems
to get his hands. We spent a
pleasant afternoon together and I gave
him your letter of 12th also mine
and he showed me some enclosures and
also an interesting one from Alice.
Spent a bit of twilight as it was a
bright day and encountered a great

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deal of traffic and saw a few shells
bursting and some dead horses for the
first time in some months.
On my return I found your dear letter
of Feb 26th with two enclosures from
Father and also some more enclosures
which Wood had forwarded. Mr Holmer
business letter of 25th Feb. also
received and a cable from Father about
purchase of preferred stock which is
very gratifying and which I will telephone
to Wood tomorrow. Am now in my
comfortable room with a fire and must
finish this before I retire. Had
clipping about Mirium's will which
seemed very satisfactory for dear Uncle
Jack.

Monday 19th March. Rade to was
president of court martial on another
poor drunk but let him down as easily
as possible as I consider the Government
that makes liquor accessible may rather
that encourages its production and sale
more to blame than its unhappy
victims. Attended tables and after
lunch watched our men at dismounted
drill. Am home in office, then
Barber and read in evening in my
room.

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Tuesday 20 Mar. Lummah ride on the hill in morning in spite of frost and cold. Rode 10 miles to Sleelube on gas at — after lunch with McEwen and Hazard only to find it had been cancelled. Got sacked with sleet and snow and a cutting wind on way back and had to change. Found Rackham a nice chap and think he will be quite an acquisition to our mess.

Wednesday March 21st Too muddy for drill so had a route march instead and rifle exercise in the afternoon. Walked around the course for our cross country run in 32 minutes. Plotted the advance down south on my map. No wonder what it is going to mean and are following everything very closely. Got a note to send to the coast for remnants at midnight and had to get out an operation order before I turned in.

Thursday 22nd March 2" of snow and quite cold. Suspected the conducting party and they went for a ride. Got Smith back from his month's special leave, looking much better. He is a nice chap and I am sure we will get along very well together. He says it is harder to say good bye after a month than after 10 days. Wood's

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woods paymaster, by the way got leave to Paris where his wife met him! I wish I could look forward to that in the summer if there is no leave.

Friday 23rd March. Had a very good drill on the hill and find both the and horses looking better for the regular work. Inspected all the mess quarters cook houses and messrooms on Wednesday and was pleased with things. They are getting good food, well cooked and served hot and can have no ground for complaint. Dismounted drill in the afternoon after which I had my usual 6 kilometer walk and spent an hour with Barber.

Saturday 24th March Drill in morning and a run in the afternoon which I described last night. 3 letters from Sarah as well as those I have mentioned. Poker game in mess but did not join in and wrote you instead.

Sunday 25th already described except that we had lunch the Tovar Major and "chicken" for dinner and I saw just now left another poker game well in progress. I hear there was no game on Saturday night until 4.00 A.M. when they remembered that the clock was to go ahead an hour and that it was really 5.00 A.M.!!

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Give my love to Aunt Emma if she is
 still with you and tell Emma how much
 we both enjoyed his letter especially
 his statistics about the recruiting by
 denominations in which the Methodists
 are little more than half the R.C.'s who
 are third after Anglicans and Presbyterians.
 It would be well for Dr Flanders and
 the Pettis and others of like kidney to ponder
 these figures a little!

Hand just read some enclosures
 which Grand sent and am always so
 glad to be able to get in touch with
 family matters. Father's letter to you
 were so sweet and life long.

Getting late dearest Mother so must
 close. I so much love
 devotedly Jbb