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Sunday
1st April 17
6.30 PM

Dearest Mother

Am a little late starting my letter today as Smith and I look an afternoon off and rode into — for tea and are only just back. It was alternately wet and sunshiny but the change did us both good and we enjoyed it, and the pastries and chocolate were very good. I tried to buy some raisins (I'my failing) but the price was too high 30 pence per kilo so I refrained as I drew rather heavily on my account last month.

No letters since last week's budget which I have already acknowledged and Father's which I also have answered. I forgot one bundle of enclosures from your Mother dear which I sent on to Wood and a nice letter from Elaine thanking me for little T which I am glad she liked. I have a bundle of what look like large photos from Father but reserve them to look over this evening after dinner.

Rather an unevenful week although with most of the men back and a little raining going on there is always more interest and something to look after. Telephone road out before I tabled.

1-IV-77

Monday March 26th. "A" Squadron broken up, one troop going to each of the four divisions for police duty and traffic control. Inspected them all before they moved off after lunch but was not very pleased. However it was raining hard and some men had only returned at noon from conducting horses so did not say very much. Walked to the radio while a little and chatted with Barber. Miss the supply of papers and magazines from Canada although we have bundles of newspapers and one Life did arrive. However they will likely all turn up, snow no trouble as so far all letters have come to hand.

Tuesday 27th March Still cold, wet and raw. Stop on drill ground where Smith is superintending the erection of 3 jumps on which to school our new horse crew. Signed the court martial papers for one of our officers and attended to other office work. Visited stables at noon and dismantled parade after lunch and spent rest of afternoon quizzing Madeline about Store Table to see if any new establishment which apparently had never been done under old

1-IV-17

regime and which is very necessary for a check on stores issued and in order to maintain any standard of economy.

Seven letters all at once which takes up a little. Talked to Rackham in evening who is a very nice chap. He comes from Peterborough originally and knows a great many of our mutual friends in Canada & Toronto. He says he was very nearly one of James' ushers.

Wednesday 28 March. Inspected one box of B. Tutch is going as parcel to the Capps A.P.M. and found them turned out in better shape. One bright morning but too slippery for jumping.

Inspected all the mint billets at 11.00 and found some very dirty; also visited all cook houses and men's messes also the three squadron canteens which make a profit of about 200 francs per month (all of which is spent on the extras and potatoes (when they can be bought for the men's messes). Chocolate, cigarettes and beer are the chief things sold and from which most of the revenue is derived. Walked to P.M. and wrote Father a long letter at night also sending cable.

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Thursday 29th March 1-IV-17
for bundles with Col Wilkins of C.M.M.G.B.
Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade at
8:30 in a lorry. It took us two hours
to get up largely due to congestion of
traffic and the circuitous routes we
had to follow and by the time we got up
a steady rain prevented our ~~seeing~~
seeing the enemies lines and back
country the way we wanted to from
the position to which we took me.
However I know the way now and
will get up again on just favorable
opportunity. Saw one poor chap
hit by a shell that fell near us
but we were sending over 10 to 1, also
saw a thing I had never seen before
that is a dead horse in a communication
trench over which we had to climb.
Had a couple of sandwiches and was
glad to get back and change about
5:00 P.M. Spent my light breeches
with the mud although it may
brush off when dry. Went down to
Barbiers for an hours chat and
then read in mess and later in
my own room until midnight.

Friday 30th March Heavy rain but
we drilled all the same and it cleared
and the welcome (but very rare) sun

came out about 10:30 A.M. ⁵ 15-IV-17
is now put over the jumps each
morning and it is rather fun watching
them. Most of our old chaps are
fairly good at it but some of the new ones
are very green and jerk their vapors
around which of course always
raises my ire. Attended stables
and worked at M.S.T. with Spencer
in the afternoon. Recommended two
of our men for commissions and
someone of our junior officers as
soon as talking to at the request of his
squadron Commander. Got a parakeet
aboard from her far over a week
and went down to Berber as usual.

as Wilkins and I must hurry for
dinner must rush down but
will mail this as soon as I get boat
and finish tonight
Love
Jbb

Am just back from the mess so will
finish before retiring.

1-IV-17
10:30 P.M.

Saturday 31st March went out rather like
a lamb although still cold and raw but
occasionally a little sun. The hours earlier
start makes quite a difference and we will
soon be able to have dinner at 7.30 without
light. Up on the drill ground as usual in
the morning where some very satisfactory
work was done. The men seem to
especially enjoy the jumping. The
squadrons at Washbury in the afternoon
at which they are pretty rusty but this
brush up will help matters. I hope.
Walked over to see them with Smith after
inspecting some remnants out of which
I picked some for myself, but got up
to very much I fear. Completed the
war diary for the month and then went
down to Red Barber for an hour. He
was not in very good humor. They
always have school all day Saturday and
a holiday on Thursday. Read the
communes the papers (London F.P.)
and chatted to Rackham. Bed about
midnight.

Sunday 1st April "Jours des poissons"
as the French say and fishing season
opens. Hot bath and breakfast

about 8.45. Found my new shirts ⁷ ^{1-IV-17} are
shrinking or ~~are~~ getting fat about
the neck. Got three special leaves
again this week. I wonder if they
will keep up. Spent the morning in
the office kept for a saddle
inspection at 11.30 like I used to do in
London, everything laid out. Was very
pleased with it. After lunch rode
to ~~the~~ with Smith on new horse
for tea and bought some cigarettes at
the canteen. It is a beautiful old
town and not much knocked about
in spite of being still shelled about
once a month. I had quite a nice little
dinner of chicken and apple pie!! and
a liquor afterwards and have just
come up now. A bundle of Saturday
evening posts and a Mechanics for the
Mother of which will give me a few
days reading but no Fib or March
Cosmopolitan which I like best but
they will likely turn up.

I expect to have a visitor with
but will cable on Wednesday as
usual and likely will buy a few
lines and try and see what. Nothing
further to add except very much
love for you three. Am happy to
be so comfortable here now. It