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Dearest Mother

Sunday April 1917
Easter Day

I won't be able to write at much length today as am a little rushed and am starting now (11:45 AM) in case I am called away later on.

I think I acknowledged all letters in mine to Alice last Wednesday except yours of March 13th which came since via Wood.

Heber's marriage was news to me but feel fairly sure that he has managed to do quite well for himself. He has assuredly gotten on over here as he is now a T. Major and Field Cashier of the 4th Div., and started out as an orderly room clerk I believe. There are a great many people no doubt who do not see him from our point of view like that Mrs. T. & I.

I did enjoy Aunt Emma's letter so much, it was good of her to write. I suppose that by the time this reaches you she will have gone. I am so glad you find the upstairs telephone such a help, you should have had it long ago.

Sarah has sent me several of your letters to her and I am reading them as much as those to Wood. She has been laid up with a sore

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2 April

Thrust and I fear has been quite miserable but said she was better in her last which however was nearly a week old.

Your last letters about dear Father has made me feel easier as I was a bit worried when I first heard of his indisposition, especially the complications together. I do hope she is quite well again by now and know you or Alice would cable at any time if necessary. I see the business letter of March 19th which came this week was written and signed by Mr Holmes as he was not back then. It was quite satisfactory in every way.

I agree with Popad in what he says about you and Alice getting more diversion and think that a congenial guest young or old staying at Lakewood does you good of your routine work than anything else. I don't think you have people to tea on Sundays after as you might and I know Father enjoys seeing people like that.

I had such kind letters from James & Bob and also Aunt Elizabeth but fear I may not be able to answer them for some little time.

Two bundles of magazines came this week but no Cosmopolitan yet.

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Monday 2nd April. Had a rummah ride up on the hill for all ranks and put the men over our three jumps and only one was carried off which was pretty good I thought. A very high wind and an R.F.C. officer in a single seater had to make a forced landing near us and I asked him 'in to lunch. A heavy snow storm and blizzard in the afternoon prevented his getting up again so he remained over night and we were all most interested in his talk and experiences. He was all through the campaign under General Smuts in S.A. before he joined the R.F.C. When casualties lately have been terrible but they expect better and faster machines soon. 10 remnants arrived from which I picked one for myself but fear she is gone in front although otherwise a very nice mare. About 6" of snow and flush on ground. Spent an hour with old Barber and paid him 58.50 for lessons at 12 for each but consider it money well spent.

Tuesday 3rd April. Our R.F.C. friend got up after lunch and safely away although there was quite a high wind. Rain in morning prevented drilling as ground although we soft and we

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have to be so careful about cutting it up and interfering with agriculture. I tried out the new mare in the afternoon and liked her but fear she is too light to do much work for me. I inspected some fields with the Squadron officers for which we have been asked to pay damages. Still very cold. Barber at 6.00 dinner at 7.30 and read and wrote as usual until midnight.

Wednesday 4th April. Had a full marching order parade and was very pleased with the turnout, which was my first regimental parade. Visited B Squadron at the range in the afternoon and then started the historical record of the Regiment which we are asked to furnish. Will send Father a copy in due course. Young Bishop was up for a few minutes but looks warm as he is up 3 or 4 hours every day that the weather is good. He is pushing the army to the south of us.

Thursday 5th April Our first real spring day, bright sun and warm breeze now. Smith and I started out to make a reconnaissance of the forward area at 9.00 and did not get back until 7.30 P.M. We had to go a long way to a front line

Zapier

position from which we could get the
 view we wanted of the German camp.
 Our guns were very busy and we
 saw one of our ^{mal} bartraps put forward
 how anything could live above ground
 though it beats me. It seemed a
 regular wall of bursting shells. All our
 sandwiches while watching it and
 then made out through liquid mud
 over our calves in places. I was in
 a horrible mess when I got home
 but it brushes off easily when dry.

Saw one 12" gun (not how) on
 a flat car. The piece itself must be
 30 feet long. Our way back called in
 our road who seemed well and cheerful
 no new dug out. He showed us the
 remains of one of our planes that
 had been shot down close to him.

Did not even wash for dinner
 as was just in time and we have a
 framed fine for lab ones. Two letters
 from Sarah.

Good Friday 1917. Up on drill ground
 in A.M. but saw again in afternoon
 which enabled me to finish the
 historical record. I did not go down
 to old Barber and fear now I will
 have to discontinue for a time at
 any rate but have been pretty

regular for the winter months since November. Read and wrote in evening while the others had a small game of poker.

Saturday 7th April. Another bright day but a cold north wind but all ranks up on the hill. After lunch I rode up to Corps Hqts and had a nice interview with the B G G S Gen Radcliff who said what good work our men had done all winter on the tunnels and how useful they would now be.

He showed me a lot of schemes and maps and could not have been nicer. Ratcham went up with me and I must say I like him very much. and find him congenial and sensible.

Back in time for dinner and had a conference of officers in the mess after dinner.

Sunday 8th Easter Day. Had such a nice surprise this A.M. I found little Shatford who is back again in France. He had 31 commendaunts and I am sure it did us all good. He is a fine little chap in every way. Another gorgeous day and I only hope it will continue for the coming week, as horses and men need now the sun and warm weather.

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4:40 P.M.

Had to leave for lunch and must now finish. Have been in orderly room for an hour but nothing very exciting. We are to move up early in the week and there is a slim chance for a little cavalry work. All our plans are made and a party detailed to fill in trenches and make a route for us over both the front lines in case we get a chance. Everybody of course is very keen.

A letter in from Sarah dated 3rd in which she left her room for meals so I hope she is better. It is a great relief to me to know she has two or three really interested friends at the hospital with her.

At last the die seems to be cast in the U.S. and from all reports they seem to be going into the war in a whole hearted sort of way. Their fleet & money can help now but it will be some time before they can do much on land even if they decide to send an expeditionary force over.

I have thought very much of a part dear ones on this Easter day and picture you now at Memorial.
 very much love Jbb