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My dear dear Father

22 April 1917

How can I express to you my deep sympathy and love in this hour of trial and sorrow. It is a blow I had begun to hope you would be spared and it seems all the sadder when we think that He has passed unscathed through the campaigns from YPRES (II) in April 1915, FESTOUBERT May 15, LOOS Sept 15, YPRES III June 16, SOMME Sept Oct Nov 16 and up to ARRAS April 17 without a serious wound. I would have liked him to at least ^{have} lived to see the success of 9th April for which he worked so hard and which he contributed so much, but had I known that some of it would prove to be a mere blind chance. I believe Wood's brigade was chosen to move forward just because General Foch had greater confidence in him and even after his death his plans were carried out. He the last detail without a hitch and the officers even did not know that he was no more until 2 days later.

I have written the dear home Mother fully and now only want to tell you about the dear lads. Orit and effects, the sentimental portions of which I want you to get as soon as possible.

I had to look over his papers and things just in case there were some things that

required immediate attention, but found means
 continuing in order as he felt he would be
 during the operations and had even paid his
 bed and servants.

I am having his bank book made up
 and expect his pay etc and balance will be
 sent to you as part of him in due course.

His diary I have read and compiled and
 mailed you by registered post today.

His Health portfolio I have gone through
 and kept a few letters that I will answer
 and forward to you later, also one or two
 little articles that I saw use such as protractors
 and rulers for drawing which is some use.

I am enclosing the key and have sent the
 folio to Sarah today with some things of
 mine to forward to you with his
 effects. I have kept his diary book
 on hand with bank book.

He kit and belongings he had with him
 - name [except what was actually on him
 the name and which will be sent gal diet
 authorities] is shown on enclosed list
 set up by Capt Robertson and his
 went Patton. The it I have marked
 articles for Sarah to forward to you at
 re (a whole copy) and those that she
 will return until I get some as some
 them such as clothing and equipment
 come use and I feel the dear boy and

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you would want me to. I have also
 many one or two of his interests a little
 respect and intend also giving a little
 more (piper lighter, cigarette case) to McTaggart
 and whom I know he would like a lot
 of. I intend later on sending his
 photograph to Guntucker; Angelo Hammock
 the same Robinson Ware, the Donald
 the same, Smith, Ross, Penhale, and
 his four B.C's Ball, McTaggart, Brown
 and more but will wait to hear from you
 before doing so.

In addition to his kit and some he
 left surplus clothing & equipment
 stored with Messrs JOHN WILSON SON & CO MEE
 22 CATHEDRAL YARD
 EXETER.

I am writing them to send me and Sarah
 also an inventory and later we can
 arrange to send most of these things back.
 I have his saddle but will try and get
 it back if possible although it is not
 his personal property.

The picture of the Church I think is
 ARRAS Cathedral and he got it and French
 man's hat for you. I was with him when
 he got the picture. We all wore them in the
 snow and smiled together to save our heads

from the roof and water drips.

As soon as Robinson or I shall get to England at first opportunity and send to you. If there is anything else on the list that you or dear Mother or the girls would like and which I have not started let Sarah know and she can send it on later.

I enclose original signed inventory. I want to tell you that I am taking every care of myself and not exposing myself to the extent when called to do so in the execution of my duty. My work only calls for occasional effort as you know and I never however will be exposed as much as dear Mad. I say this so that you can reassure yourself and the dearest part of all Mother's so much as possible.

I want to again thank you for your kind and inspiring cable which has put new heart into me and will enable me to "carry on" but with renewed strength & cheer. Now that I have a command I feel I can be of some use while before I believed (I admit now) that I would have been glad to get away from the garments at least. I am glad now that I believed your excellent advice and stick it out. Your grief is mine my dear Father but we must bear it and believe that it is far the best. All my love to you and your dear old folks.