Letter 133. Kingsley Hotel
London.
July 12/17.

Dear Mother

Our summons has come @ last & we are now on our way to France. Haven't time for a very long letter, so shall start at the beginning & go back to July 7 when I wrote you No 132. I think I told you all about Hobkirk. He dined with us that night. The 8th Sunday, I was off duty in a.m. & stayed in bed. Went on duty @ noon for remainder of day. It poured with rain, so we couldn't have done anything in any case. Robin spent the afternoon with Mildred & had dinner with us. Monday it rained

again. I had promised to have dinner with the Bogarts; so put on my heaviest boots, rain hat & coat & walked two miles there in the wet, for I wanted to see them, & felt in my bones we would be leaving before long. Arrived to find Laurie at home & Billie Smedley with them for the summer. They have rented furnished such a nice house, with lovely grounds, flowers & vegetables in abundance, the house well furnished etc. In the middle of dinner Irene, husband & little girl of seven arrived un-expectedly. Her husband has been over on sick-leave from France, & when boarded was sent to Crowborough on duty, which makes it very nice for them all. Laurie is O.C. of the Engineers training depot @ present. We had quite a talk, but I went home in fairly good time, having a long walk ahead of me. Laurie & Ethel came with me. Mildred & I had Tues. afternoon, so we started out & walked to Mayfield, a village about 7 miles away, with a nice old church, & found on arriving an immense Convent with we heard a beautiful old Chapel, but couldn't get in as it can only be seen @ 3 o'clock, which was most disappointing. Took the train home, & was greeted on arriving

with the news that we were
to leave the following a.m.
at nine o'clock for London.
Needless to say after dinner
we had all we cared do to
pack!!! It is such a
nuisance these days
travelling with so much
luggage, for porters are old
& decrepit & hard to get @
that — the taxi-men are
inclined to grumble, they
are so much in demand.
We had to pay 10/ excess
to London — & yet we have
absolutely nothing except
necessities. Dear knows
what will pay in France.
However we arrived here
O.K. reported & heard we
didn't have to leave for
Folkstone until the
following day. Couldn't

paid at the H. as the boat
train varies from day to
day, sometimes leaving
@ 9 a.m. & others @ 5 p.m.
Went as usual to the
Soho district for lunch,
where we had an excellent
meal for 2/. Hors d'oeuvres,
delicious omlette, cold beef
& lamb with salade, fresh
strawberries & coffee. I don't
know how they do it, for the
past few days @
Scarborough & Dundee took the
house keeping & the prices
of food are terrible. Beef
40d a lb. Canned tomatoes 36d
a tin. Eggs 6d a piece &
everything else in proportion!
After lunch we stopped,
there had dinner up with
the girls @ No. 7 Hyde Park
Place. Parkins is anxious

to get over to France again — but of course she really has had her share there — however she may have influence enough to get it! Right after breakfast this a.m. had my hair waved, & then he & I refused to go near a shop, & rushed down to have a look @ Westminster Abbey. After seeing other Cathedrals it strikes one more than ever as a pity it is so cumbered up with memorial statues etc. Of course it adds to its interest, but does detract from the beauty of the building itself. Then we wandered through the Cloisters & into the Close & there it was perfect & so peaceful! From Westminster walked to the R.C. Cathedral, where a good deal of work has been done since I saw it last, but while the detail is lovely, as it progresses I feel it is losing some of its beauty. It is becoming such a mass of marble of various kinds & coloring that it is over-powering, & too ornate for me. Then we took a bus to another restaurant in Old Compton St. & had another equally good lunch — Came up to Hotel, am writing to you & leave @ 5.20 for Folkestone — I imagine we will cross

to-night, probably spend
the night in Boulogne,
spend the 2 day
casually cleaning in the
a.m. You had better
continue to send my
letters to I think to 133
Oxford St. & let them
forward them. I think it
better in the long run.
Well I had better stop
as time is going. We will
have to be at station a good
3/4 h. ahead of time, in
order to make sure of
getting luggage etc. on
in time. Travelling isn't
what it used to be in
peace times. Love & much
thanks for your help

From Yours lovingly
Lillie.