Letter 129.

Can. Officers Hospital
Crowborough. Sussex.
June 17/17.

Dear Mother

I imagine England in June so hot, are fuls exhausted!! The past two days, even in the country quite equaled the warmest days we had in London when in England ten years ago. Thank goodness the work is not heavy - for even now one leg lags behind the other every step I take - though I realize one would manage to hustle if necessary. Meanwhile am only too thankful to do as little as possible!

I wrote you last on the 10th. The following day who should turn up but Robin Forbes, a nephew of Mildreds, & son of Dr David Forbes who lives in Victoria. He is at the Camp with the Canadian Engineers, & is such a nice boy. Just turned seventeen last week, really far too young but he was so keen to come, & told his father if he wouldn't give his consent to joining, he would go anyway - knowing him one would never imagine him to be a boy to take such a stand, for he has such a sweet attractive manner - So far he loves the life, & while of

cause he misses some of the comforts @ home, the hardships don't up-set him at all, in spite of the smaller ration now allowed the Tommie. He evidently thoroughly enjoys a quiet home life, pr. when we gave him a general invitation to come down whenever he liked, was so pleased, & has been on every possible occasion since, & as you know there can be nothing exciting in our lodging house, pr. matrons Grand & Miss Allwood are both older than we are! Of course it is a treat to get away from the Camp, which is two miles from here, & of course there is always a good meal ready for him. On Tuesday the 11th Miss Grand gave Mildred & I the afternoon, so we walked to the town (1 mile) & got the bus (~~et~~ motor) that runs to Tunbridge Wells, a distance of eight miles. The motor ran at such a rate we couldn't really enjoy the country. We bought tennis shoes & some other odds & ends - had tea @ rather a nice tea-shop on the main street, then went & sat in a shady spot on the Common, pr it was much too warm to walk around any more than necessary.

It brought back our visit there before, but can't for the life of me remember your friends married name, only Rosa Friend which is of course her maiden name, otherwise would have gone to see her. We caught the six o'clock bus to Bridge about three miles from town, then got off for we noticed an air way in, a very attractive looking Inn, & thought we would enjoy supper there & a quiet walk home in the evening. However great was our disappointment on being told that since the War there was so little business in that part that they didn't serve meals. However on telling the Inn keeper our predicament (for @ this hr. we could get neither bus or train) persuaded her to give us ale - bread & cheese, which was quite enough - The walk home was delightful, through lovely rolling country, & at every turn one seemed to get un-usually extensive views for this country. For miles we seemed to walk past the Marquis of Abergavenny's estate, one of the finest in this part of the world, but felt it was too late to wander through it at all.

In another day or so the Rhododendrons will be over, but this day they were a picture, all in full bloom, & no faded blossoms. Since then I have heard that the Marquis who owns this wonderful place is an awful man, & is now in prison for having swindled all of his friends. Am glad I didn't know @ the time. It is terribly sad to think of a man belonging to such a family as the Lewills have been in the past, wasting such opportunities - especially in this history making time. The walk home proved larger than we imagined & it was passed nine when we reached home, very tired, but feeling we had had a lovely afternoon. This place is so quiet, & we are such a small family, that it is especially nice to get off by ourselves. Miss Brand is just a little of the Miss S.S. Jawson type - rather small tonny - decent but gets tiresome. However we are awfully lucky to be having this quiet time before going to France.

We have a tennis court both @ the Hospital & the Lause, but it has really been

too warm to play in our hours off - but hope to learn a little about the game before I leave. Since Thurs. we have really done nothing except work - eat - & in our hours off read - mend & I've written a heap of letters, trying to answer a few that have been in my writing case for perfect ages. Mildred here calls out to be sure & tell you I am getting fat - the first time I have put on any flesh since she has known me. Because here are has absolutely no responsibility, or nothing to worry over in the work & you know that agrees with me. Mildred herself is looking better than she has since before we went East. I know all her people feel she is foolish to refuse a position of more responsibility, but after all if she is happier as she is, that is the principal thing.

Yesterday got a Canadian mail & two letters from you. No's 132 & 133. But unfortunately haven't them over here, so can't altogether answer them. I can't quite understand about your teeth. It seems such ages to me since you had them out, that I feel yours gums aught to have lost all soreness.

Someone writing recently says you are much thinner - I do hope you are not doing too much. To at least this summer take a good rest. I wish you could go off alone to Kennebunk & be with Miss Willard & Emerson, for you would not be lonely with them & yet the air there is so good, & the change would do you a world of good. Of course on the other hand Uncle cannot be left alone this year of all years. I shall be so glad when he has heard from Temple - & recently have heard of so many prisoners who have ~~to~~ been decently treated that I hope & pray he has struck one of the better camps. Of course we really haven't had time to hear from him, six weeks is the shortest time ever to hear, & usually it takes much larger.

Am awfully sorry the switch is too white, but it errs on the right side & so can be used later, or perhaps have a little dark hair added.

Somehow was awfully surprised to hear the other day that Paul Hanson was over in ~~Fort~~ Buxton on duty, & has his whole family with him - Isn't it splendid, for

the last time I heard of him they feared he was an invalid for life.

Miss Grand had three days leave last week so mildred & I had the hospital to ourselves during the day in her absence. Of course it meant we couldn't have any time off to-geether, so Miss Grand is sleeping in this a.m. & giving us the afternoon off as Robin hopes to be able, being Sunday to get off for the whole afternoon also. Hear knows when he may be sent to France, so we are blowing ourselves to a great treat for his benefit - We suggested going to Eastbourne, by train, & having dinner there, & if you could have seen his delight at the mention of getting near the sea, it would have done you good. Great was our disappointment on looking up the trains, to find there are none after 8 a.m. on Sunday, although they run practically every hr. during the week - This of course is only since the War. However we put our heads to-geether & decided to get a taxi. It will cost about £2 but on full it will be well invested, for the boy has had few enough treats, & since being in

England has had both mumps & measles, so has'nt ~~had~~ scarcely been out of camp. When alone we are quite content, just to take a picnic lunch & go off for a walk somewhere, so can make it up later — but of course he has seen enough of the country; anyway a little life is what he will enjoy, & his home having been right by the sea in Victoria he misses it a good deal.

I seem to have written pages about the boy — but when there is so little doing one is apt to go into detail, & I know you are interested.

Had a line from Bagshaw recently. She is with Laval Unit & simply loathes it. From all I can gather, the staff is made up (with the exception of a few Eng. Can. Sisters) entirely of French Canadians, & medically (with the exception of Obstetric's) they are not particularly efficient as we who know them realize — Then there is no doubt the two races don't pull & the Eng. Cans are most un-happy. I think from all I hear it won't be long before they are separated. Of course all this is between ourselves.

I sent it simply abominable how the French Can. are behaving. Even if it means civil war, now is the time to step in & take away a few of their special rights for they have proved themselves worthless citizens — & while it may be partly due to ignorance on the part of many, it only proves the time has arrived to get them out of the clutches of their church, & make them educate their children along side of other Canadians. It might change the point of view of the coming generation.

Well I think I've said enough for one letter. Will write again after our trip. Love to Uncle George & always for your own dear self

As ever yours lovingly
Lottie.

From.

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C/o Matron-in-Chief
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London.