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Copies of letters
from Lucknow.
(2nd Tour in India)
April 21st, 1904.
to Dec 22nd, 1904
W.B.B.

RMMC 248/1/4

Letters home

April 21st 1904 to Dec 22nd 1904.

Lucknow
Cashmir (leave)
Lucknow again.

J B Beach

A	B	C	D	E	
F	G	H	IJ	K	
L	M	N	O	PQ	
R	S	T	UV	W	
XYZ					

R.A.M.C. Mess
Dilkusha
Lucknow

April 21st 06

My dear Mother

I am starting a new book this week, as I found this the old one was getting a bit indistinct. This is from the Bombay Army & Navy Stores, & is one of the old sort like I had in Africa that you write on with an agate point, instead of the hard pencil which I had to use for the last one, & which was not nearly so nice. It it twice as easy to write, shell, & compose with this one, as you may expect some gems of thought from time to time. It is rather handy getting it just before going on leave as it makes you so independent of ordinary writing materials. I see on turning over & looking through at the back that it gives quite a good clear impression. I've got my leave & leave next Sunday night, joining Bill & his pal Hope, at Pilibhit next morning. After the Nepaul shoot is over I hope to go right on to Kashmir as I think if after you get this you address letters c/o Postmaster, Srinagar, Kashmir - you should hit me off all right. It is jolly to think of getting away, tho' things are not really very bad here yet. I was glad to get your letters & to hear you were all fit & well & have had a good time. I got the New Paper also all right. It seems good & will be a change from the Tatler. I went out with Brown one of our chaps, last Tuesday afternoon, he was keen to shoot a buck, & I thought I could show him one. We drove out about 5 miles & then rode about three & got on to some likely ground. We saw a buck

"Bear Camp No I" C/o Postmaster
near Baramula Srinagar, Kashmir

May 22nd Sunday.

My dear Mother

The above will show my whereabouts. I left Baramula on Friday 20th. Having got my baggage some time previous & also some tents which I sent on from Srinagar. But I went till 2 on first of a trip I had lost Wednesday. The shikari that I have taken on brought knowledge of there being a bear who lived in a deep cave about 3 miles below Baramula in the hills on the right bank. So I made a trip after him on Wednesday. I had a very steep climb to get to the place, sort of terrace & cycled road up a steep slope. The got a good position level with his cave but separated from it by a small ravine about 25 yds across. Then sat down & I lay up & waited. They never come out in the evening until the sun is off the hills. About 6 he or rather she began to move, we could just make her out from time to time thro' a hole that covered the mouth of the cave. She was very wary & kept moving around & looking about for fully an hour before she finally came out & moved slowly down the hill from the cave. I let her get about 10 yards & then fired. I hit her plumb as she nearly fell, then turned & slowly made back for the cave. I unluckily mixed her with my second barrel & she got away wide. After a little we went carefully over & found it a pretty hopeless place. The mouth was a great cleavage in a huge mass of rock, just about wide enough to take a small man sideways & extending back for about 8 feet. The cave proper, opened from this by a small opening. The villagers who had come up said that it went 7 yards away into the mountain. Her dynamite no chance whatever of getting at the cave. Bad luck as she pretty sure the poor beast was very hard hit & would die in the cave. I have had the place watched since & she has never come out

morning & evening as she used. as there's no doubt she's dead, it would be a waste!

I am now camped about a mile lower than the above & in the next nullah. about 200 feet above a small village on a nice flat piece of ground under a walnut tree & with a fine stream gurgling just below. fine view of the Jhelum & hills on the other side in front. & behind a nice wooded view up the hills on my own side. When nearing the camp on Friday we were met by a man who said that a bear had killed a young ox that morning just up above where I am camped. this was good news. we proceeded up about 3 & found the kill all right in a small open space. there being a suitable tree about 60 yds away, we proceeded to construct a machan - i.e. a sort of rough flat form of boughs & branches to sit in & watch for the bear. Then the shikari & I got up there & Imala, one of my boat men, a most useful chap, who I always take into camp, got up a nearby bowing tree. We waited as quiet as mice for a bit in that tree. Imala came quietly along & told us in a whisper that a she bear & cub were crossing about in the jungle below us - not above as we had expected. However she apparently smelt a rat for she never came near the kill & at 8 o'clock we left as it was then too dark to shoot safely, stiff & tired from long watch.

Yesterday a coolie brought in news that the bear had dragged the carcase a little lower down into the bushes & was over there. I am now at work on it. So off we went at once & quietly advanced on the scene - but she was not at home. After a consultation we decided to have a hank, i.e. a beat or drive with coolies. so arrangements were made to get 40 from the village. They were got together in about 1½ hour. a motley crowd, old, middle aged & young - in all sorts of rags & oddments. I was sorry I hadn't brought my camera up with me. A beat of the likely piece of forest jungle was

then organised, & the hullabaloo & yelling, whistling &
chorusing can be better imagined than described. It
enough to scare any bear or other animal within miles.
I was first a-horse while the beat converged, but we had
no luck. I then moved up-up to the top of the spur - &
they beat up another likely piece - but again without result.
There was a lovely view over the other side of the mountains
as we were then on the very edge of the ridge with a
steep fall on either side of about 150 feet - not
precipice, but grassy & thick wood in places. While I
was waiting there for the beat to come up - a big flock
of grazing goats passed along - they were very friendly
great shaggy fine beasts. I had as usual been sweating
like a pig with the climb & they apparently appreciated
the salty perspiration as they licked my hands & wrists
& face & neck, & clothes where they were wet - a
sweaty handkerchief sticking out of my pocket.
It was only when they began to display a particular
fondness for the rim of my felt hat & for my bootlaces that
I had to put a stop to their friendly advances!
During this second beat a mongrel dog of which of
there were two, was bitten by a snake on the fore
-leg - which had swelled up 3 times as big as the
other. They opened up the bite & let the blood run
freely. It now being about 11. I took breakfast
on the ridge - prior to beating another nullah down
the opposite side. The following comestibles were forth
-coming from my overall & impetuous looking leather
basket. Cold fowl & mutton & potatoes. hard boiled
eggs, potted meat, sardines, bread, butter, tea, milk,
sugar, whisky soda water, walnuts. Lo! you
see I had a good menu. The tea kettle, tea & utensils
was soon boiled, & I had an excellent breakfast.
In the middle of this there were some shouts from some
herdsmen half way down the mountain side & it
seems that a bear had come out near them & gone
down into the nullah which we were going to beat, as they

was a bit of all right! After breakfast down we went very slick, & I needed a hand in places. The coolies went right to the bottom & I was placed at the side of a half grown corn patch, just on the edge of a smooth nullah. The coolies then proceeded to beat of the wooded jungle. It was well managed, for soon we heard redoubled yells & shouts & the shikari said they had started a bear, & sure enough he broke at the further side of the corn patch & came leaping out like a bloomin tiger - boy oh my, with his red jaws exposed. I couldn't have been better placed as he came bounding across the field about 20 yds below me - & as he neared the edge of the nullah I took a snap shot - but him here and he went out of head over heels, disappearing in the bushes of the nullah edge. I don't think I got him with the second. He was the biggest I have ever seen & as black as night. Hoped to find him lying there, as after the first crash heard nothing more - but he wasn't there tho' lots of blood & the bush showed he was well hit. While counting all the coolies yelling at once, fight fully excited. My man seen t emerge from the other side of the nullah 150 yds or so away & go slowly down into some bushes. The coolies line was again out beyond to beat off & he went across the nullah higher up & then down to the place where we lost him. He was jam pip wind, & the bush was very thick & he might be anywhere. & of a bet I had the rifle ready. Couldn't find him the small day, & Jemmi of sorts scared the intuitive. We put him in the blood, which was plentiful & he went straight away down a smooth branch nullah & soon we heard him barking. & the angry Waff-waff of the enraged bear - some 50 yds lower down. Down we went & the bear left & went away down into a nasty at the bottom, then he broke across some fairly open ground & into the bottom of the old ravine. I had a flying shot at long range, but did no good. I think he had by this time knocked out the dog. The coolies said that he took him & threw him in the air - but he was only very slightly cut. We left the bear then

for a bit & they didn't look too hopeful. But we
started another heat from below & luckily moved him
again, as the angry wuff wuff denoted. It made
a long story short it was a cool & hour of hard
work & continued excitement. & sweat. it ain't the
word. I might just as well have been in the River
before we finally brought him to bank. I was confounded
in the thick side of the wallah, with another hanging
on to support me. & got a sight of him in the jungle
on the opposite side. A sniff shot hit him. He
moved along a bit & stuffed in thick bush. Then
I got right to the bottom of the canon & could see
him fair, lying under a bush, very sick. a little
way up the other side. I fired again as his head
dropped, but I gave him a couple more to make sure
as he had shown as much life. We were all awfully
pleased to get him, after such a long & exciting
hunt & the bucking was unusual. I was pretty
well done, & glad to get a drink. We then made
for home. & brought the victim back to camp to be
skinned. He was an enormous weight.
He measured cold & stiff 6 feet 3 inches. & then shrunk
when pegged out for drying measured 7 feet 6 in.
Cost 3 ache in his aforty back mostrous a stretched
skin 7 feet as one of the biggest he ever shot. & he
says 7 feet as a great authority. so this is a very big one. I think
you'll see the skin nicely done up, some day soon.
He certainly gave me a rare exciting time. & next to
tiger shooting, gives me a good bear hunk like that one.
Guess we shall as I want to go out the afternoon &
have a look in a likely place. Now tea time, I can
to day writing etc. Mama cant
[illegible] I got your letters
pleasing in the letter mentions
the paper all right. many thanks. glad you are all
very fit. as the leaves say. Lovely spring weather now
getting warmer. & a bit showery. Very best love all
[illegible] I dreamed of the days & of the smoke [illegible]
[illegible] I guess [illegible] the other is all right

Monday, May 3rd '06 — C/o Post master, Srinagar, Kashmir

My dear Mother

Herewith a few lines to catch the mail. I got here on the morning of the 29th, my birthday, & one of my first moves was to the Post Office, where I got your letters. So your birthday letters actually hit off the very day! A fine performance. I was glad to hear you were all fit & having decent weather. This place looks very different to what it did last year in the floods. River low & Chinar Bagh canal quite unsightly, with lots of good camping ground under the fine chinars in ground that last year was several feet deep in water. Everything is delightfully green & fresh & the good soaking last year did the ground good, though it is fertile enough at the worst of times. This family, warm here & much too civilized. People go about in clean clothes & high collars & call on the Resident & that sort of rot. There was a Gymkhana on Saturday & I played Golf. Golfing is a lawn tennis tournament beginning & such like. I shall stay very long here. There are a lot of people here. The river & the various Baghs are full of boats moored to every vantage ground. Some of the house boats are very large & comfortable, bigger than the Henley ones. But the good old dongas is good enough for me. There is not much fruit about yet, but there are some cherries & the wild mulberries are beginning & there are lots of last year's walnuts. There are a few Eng. ladies here, but I have not come across any one yet that I know well. I have joined the Golf & play a good deal while I am here as the links are only 2 or 3 yards from my boat. The turf is good & you always get a good lie & the greens are good & large. But the links here are very easy, as the ground is quite flat & there are no natural bunkers. Not nearly as good & sporting a course as that up at Gulmarg. This is also only a nine hole course. but

anyway its nice to play on turf again, instead of stony hard ground almost devoid of grass, like Suchusso. My friend & factotum "Kangana" leather merchant has been several times to see me & has been helping me a lot. He is a real good chap, the best & honest native Kashmiri I have seen of a long chalk. I went out in the evening after writing you last week & saw a bear on the hillside. It was a very hard climb & getting dusk when I got up near where he was, so I missed my one shot at about 120 yds. But it would have been a very lucky one, if I had got him, so I wasn't much disappointed. It was near the Beas, and the natives of course had never shoved out again. Next day I struck camp & we went about 3000 feet higher, a long climb, but not difficult & with some fine views. We pitched on a beautiful crater like many (for meadow) with high hills all round & beautifully wooded & covered with wild strawberry blossom. Very cold in coming up there, about 9000 feet, & I had a huge camp fire lighted at dinner time, as wood was plentiful. It did not look hopeful for sport as there were a lot of sheep & other animals grazing about & where they are you won't find bear. However I stayed there that day & next looking about but saw nothing. The name of the place was I ascertained "Boos". I see you smile - but I would have you know there is no 'e' in the end, as it is pronounced hard. We got a lot of rain there the 2nd day, & I couldn't get out in the afternoon. On 25th we struck camp & marched to Baramula, which was only about 8 miles by a short cut down the mountain. We left there 26th & got here morning of 28th. Many thanks for the letter, the golfing notes are very interesting & also for all your kind birthday wishes - it's the 5th for his four, it's very good of him. I'm glad to see Kaffirs are looking up a bit. I dare say you are at Cromer now & I hope having a very good time. I shall start off shortly again in a few days. This time in Leh Valley, off Woolar Lake. I have sent the chit on in advance to prospect. I hope Ruby is better? Sorry my house is so fearing. I must write to her. Love

Dearest Mary - I must write to her. Love

With best love to you all yours ever

Saturday Evening – June 4th

My dear Mother

I think I had better write a few lines now, as I do not post at Sopor to-morrow, as I am once again on the move. It is just on 8 pm and the boat is gently floating down the broad surface of the Jhelum. The snows look beautiful with the smoke on them & it is just light enough to see to write. There you have the whole position in a nutshell! I was very glad to get all letters & paper all right, but very sorry to hear that you were laid up with your old enemy, a sore throat. I hope it didn't last long & that you were all right long ago. Knowing your active habits I know how irksome the lying up must have been & how you missed your daily visits to the butcher & the grocer & the green grocer over the bridge. It is getting pretty warm & very gnatty at Srinagar & I do not envy those who are going to a colder climate. I shall probably get as far as I can in the boat by to-morrow evening & then pack up again for a camping tour up the Sonat valley, going off west side of Woolar lake, where I hope to get some more bear. I have much to tell you if I have time at some other time. We have had very pleasant weather since last writing. I played Golf each day, & read, & looked around & enjoyed myself. I moved the big boat a little way to the Dal lake for 2 or 3 days as the Chenar Bagh was crowded & rather noisy. I wish Macdonald were up here again, one misses a pal. I heard from Thompson last mail, he is at Aldershot. Sophie for your address as he might like over. I will send if him & tell him to send a Post card to you before coming. He is a very nice chap & very fond of boating. Sorry O. M. & not coming after Christ this year in hope. Do any of you want any pattoo cloth or anything from here? Best love to all from your Son

Saturday, June 11th c/o Post master
Srinagar, Kashmir

My dear Sue.

Here's to wish you a happy day on July 1st & many happy returns of it in the future. I'm afraid however that this may not catch the mail, & in that case it will be too late for your birthday. I have been marching hard, & am about 4 days from the nearest post office, hence I'm afraid I may miss a mail. After writing & posting at Sopor last Sunday, I got the boat started up the Pohrum river - & we went steadily up Monday & Tuesday - it was hardish work, poling & towing, but the crew work well when there is a pot on - I save a hand at the poling, to give exercise, & harder work than a Spanish priest. There were one or two small rapids that gave us a hard job. The scenery was very pretty - high banks with wooded & with beautiful turf almost like lawns, & the mountains & snows in the background. The wild mulberries are now just ripe, there are simply thousands of those trees. The fruit is nice, but has not the flavour of the English kind. It is a little smaller & quite black & sweet. Everything & everything feeds on them - men, women, children, cows, sheep, goats, dogs, pigs, ponies & lastly fish of the last fact - I took advantage, after seeing that the fish were rising at the berries that fell in from overhanging trees - & we caught altogether 24 fish. I got 17 one evening between tea & dinner. They take them eagerly - but the berries don't stay well on the hook, & you need to have a boy constantly baiting for you. It was quite good fun, the fish were all small, up to about 9 inch

long - of a kind called here Chush.
We left the boats on Thursday, with the usual array of coolies to carry the baggage. It was quite an army - myself, two servants, one boatman, one chikar, & about 15 coolies.
A pretty march, still up the Pohru valley, the river getting smaller & no longer navigable - to a camping ground called Rumbiral. The valley was wider here, & very fertile, mostly rice, finely irrigated. Got some rain in afternoon but I got out in evening & gave the inhabitants an exhibition of golf! I always take a golf club & a few balls along, as one often gets a nice patch of turf where one can practice iron shots. The villagers, especially one gray headed old man, took great interest, & fielded the balls for me so that I could go on hitting from one place. They were much amused at high shots that I tried to drop on them! The old man was delighted with 2 annas at the finish, & prayed that God might make me quickly a Lord-sahib! Yesterday we had a hard march getting higher up, & finished on a level with the lower snow. It was cold at night & I had a good wood fire. This morning we ascended to the top of the ridge in which the Pohru originates. Unfortunately there was no view from the top as there was a thick fog. Then we descended the other side of the ridge into a lovely valley with a beautiful stream. Another two hours brought me to the mouth of the valley (Kullah), where I am coming to port & there I am now camping. Will finish this on the back.

Sunday, June 19th '04

Lolab Valley.

c/o P. Macin
Srinagar.

My dear Mother

I don't know how my letters are going as regards catching mails. I am so far from the Post that I just write about once a week & chance it. I am writing in a very lovely spot which I reached about mid day this morning. My tent is pitched under the umbrageous shelter of a spreading walnut (not chestnut) tree & I am writing at a table in the open under the shadow of the same. The air is warm & balmy, I am within 50 yards of a hillside covered with deodars, & am inhaling their resinous fragrance. At their feet bubbles a winding stream, from out of which I in a deep pool near a large rock, 100 yds away, I caught 15 fish before lunch, & ate one of the largest (as big as a mackerel) at that meal. On my other hand is the broad & fertile valley of the Lolab, with verdant rice fields, & mulberry, cherry & apple trees in profusion, in fact a veritable garden. More distant are the hills bounding its further side, & right in front of me looking back in the direction from which I have come, are lofty mountains, still just a couple of snow left still upon their crests.

I wish you could all be transported here on a magic carpet, you would enjoy the climate, & the quiet & the views & the whole life as very much.

I see on looking back that I wrote to Geo. on the evening of the 11th June. Next day I started up the hole & camped among the pine trees near its head, where it divides into two terminal branches, one to right & the other to the left. I above the apex of the triangle. Each of these branches going steeply up given off many smaller ravines & ending in the snow covered crest

after lunch. we went about 2000 feet up above the camp, to look for bears or signs of them but without success. Back about 8.30, just dark, dead tired. Next morning up to 20 am up right hand branch, back about 10, again unsuccessful. The reason for the early start is that the bears, like most of the Indian animals, are nocturnal feeders. They do not venture out in search of food till the sun has left the hills. & return to their lairs before it shines again upon the hills in the morning. So that except for a beat, 5 pm till dark, & daybreak & an hour or two after are the times to find them on the move. On this trip I was after the brown bear, which never goes far below the snow, not like the black, which is found in comparatively low hills. My camp here I reckon was about 9000 feet, & my daily tracks took me up above 10,000. It was bitter cold this morning, & I was glad when the sun rose high enough to get over the mountain ridges. On return I saw a small sheep had up. This had been brought for my approval & was bought for 2 rupees 2/6. It proved a good purchase. Things in these wilds are very cheap, different from Simla, where there is a big demand. Fresh eggs 1½ a dozen. Fresh butter 3 lb. Milk ½ a pint for about a pint & half (2 lbs). Chickens, small but very good 2 each. Also a large platefull of honey in the comb, 2. I was out again in the evening, they time up the other branch but saw nothing. The nala, tho' a good one to look at proved most disappointing, & I never saw a trace of fur. Where I was this evening there were crowds of wild strawberry plants in blossom, also primrose plants, not yet in flower & many other familiar wild flowers, of which I am world, know the names. I also spotted some wild rhubarb

I sent some to look it back & gave directions that it should be cleaned, but I regret to say it never left the sideboard. I was always so fond of it. Coming back at one part I came for about ½ mile on a snow bridge. This is where the snow has slipped down & has all melted away except just on a small course, the stream of which is flowing briskly below the snow over which you are walking. 16th. I took it easy & sent the children off to look for a fresh place. 17th started after breakfast with two cookies determined to climb to the very top of the ridge & get a good view of the snows & perhaps some photographs. The morning was fine & there promised a good chance. Left at 10.20 & reached the summit about 12,000 feet after a real hard stiff climb of 3 hours. The last part was steep & over snow. There was a fine view 2 miles & miles of snows from the top. But unfortunately the sun was behind thunder clouds & it was not good for photography. There was a very cold wind up top, & we got under the lee of a rock & lit a fire to make some tea. At 2 o'clock it began to snow. I was close under the rock stooping down to put on my mackintosh, when the thunder storm broke right overhead with a deafening, splitting, rending crash. I was quite dazed for a moment. The thunder clap & the flash were instantaneous, & I distinctly felt a shock like that of an electric battery down my left leg. I was wearing an old steel knife hanging from a swivel from a belt over my left hip, & I think this must have attracted a fraction of the discharge. I moved a bit away from that rock with some speed! However the storm moved along the ridge, & we didn't get any more quite so close. Not did I want it. It gave me a pretty good start. The snow went on for some time & I had my tiffin in a snow storm. After it stopped the effect of the light fall of snow on

the ground in contrast to the old thick snow around was very pretty. I waited till 6.30 in hopes of the sun breaking out, but with no luck, & the cold wind was then so bitter & strong that we could hardly face the top of the ridge. So – took a few time exposures & we went down, getting back to camp about 7.30 p.m. When you get above 10,000 feet, the rare factor of the air makes you awfully short of breath. You have to stop & blow every few yards where the going is steep, & the exertion considerable. Another thing I noticed was, on getting down some about 2000 feet from the top you distinctly feel the pressure of the denser air on your ear drums, making your ears feel sort of bunged up for a time. I have noticed this several times. As we got down among the forest, about the camp level, we found there had been a pretty useful wind down below as well – as several huge pine trees were levelled. Two had fallen right across & partly along the path by which we went & returned. One other was a giant, quite 6 foot in diameter at the base, & 150 feet long, & was shattered into several pieces. I was glad I had not been under it! It must have been a sort of cyclone, as a lot of trees had fallen, & the servants in camp had been in a great fright, as three trees, just across the nala from them had been blown down & the trees over the tents had rocked & cracked. They had bolted out of the tents into the open & some pitches too, I think. I added fox gloves to the list of common flowers that I spotted to-day. There were a few red wild flowers, I don't know what kind, growing on the very top among the rocks. Other wise it was too high for much vegetation, only some scrub grass under the snow & a little birch wood a little below that. Trees had ceased some 500 feet below the crest, the last & most hardy being the birch with its shabby looking white bark.

At this period my letter writing was interrupted by a reception. The people on the wall agree generally first out that I am a doctor, & I have quite a large itinerant (& remunerative) practice. I just had about ½ a dozen halt & blind of sorts, with their numerous relatives. & have prescribed for them, after hearing of their ailments at great length, to the best, not as much of my ability, as to the extent of my store of drugs. This is strictly limited, but I am glad to say I brought some of the most generally useful along with me. But when old people complaining of the decrease in their powers of vision, which they will not believe depends upon their advancing years, come up for treatment, it is rather difficult to cater for them out of my limited equipment. However I give most of them something which may do them some good. I have to get their Kashmiri language translated into Hindustani by the useful factotum Somela, one of my boatmen, a most useful man in every way & who speaks both tongues.

I left the nala next day 17th & on the march felt in with my mail, in which Cosby had been sent to Hemdwara (nearest post-office) 5 days before. Rather curious thing happened in connection with this. About 10 o'clock I turned to my tiffin Cosby & asked him why the post Cosby had not yet appeared, as we had expected him the previous evening. He said he didn't know what had happened to him, & I was hoping he hadn't got killed or something. I had just gone 50 yards when I saw a native woman round a corner of the hillside, with a pony & some bundles. He salaamed when he met me & I returned his salute & walked on as he was a stranger to me. He stopped & said that he had got my dâk (mail). Query, was my thinking of my mail just at that moment, mental telegraphy or only a coincidence? Curious, wasn't it? Anyway I was jolly glad to get my letters

of just a month ago. May 17th, 18th & to hear you were all well & your throat better, also to get the King, & some other papers from Lucknow, as had been out of all touch with the outside world for quite a long time. I hope that the news to W. Bay which you were then looking forward to, set you all up & got rid entirely of your headaches. You were then anxiously awaiting news of our Agra shoot, & were also choosing new papers for the walls. The old study will be a bright room now, I tell the Guv. I don't know the expiry of Lahore, but I fully endorse his remarks. I shall look out for the Guv's tobacco with avidity. The cocks & hens (I think they were) from Jane & Clive have not appeared yet. Glad Clye approves of the academy. I have seen fairly good many reproductions of the pictures as I get the Illd Sporting & Dramatics & Daily Graphic from Mr Mess at Abo each week, as well as your King. I have had some rather good fishing in the small streams & rivers the last few days. I caught 11 after getting into camp 16th & 23 next morning before marching. It made me very late as I did not get under way till 12.30 & it proved to be the longest march I have yet had - steady up 3000 feet, & the most perfect view of about 100 miles of snow clad tops from the top, including Nunga Parbat, a very master among the giants (26,000 fat odd). It was luckily a fine afternoon & I got a perfect view of him. Then down the other side & a long march after by 8.15 I was fairly mixed up among streams & irrigation channels & bunds & stepping stones, but luckily the chokari turned up from camp with a lantern & I got in at quarter to 9 in the dark. Halt yesterday & caught 33 more fish. On here to day. Very hot here after the heights, no need of camp fire & a lot of blankets at night. Not regular anyway, I am glad. Bye bye. Best love to all, including Mary, Nutty & Bunty. Best love to

c/o P. Master
Srinagar
Kashmir

Pohru River
June 28th 06

My dear Mother

At last after much trekking a quiet day in the tent & a chance of polishing off a lot of correspondence. The morning after I wrote last I got up at 2.50 am in the dark & went out after my funny friends. The first glimmerings of dawn began about 3.30 – & by 4.15 it was pretty light. Had the usual success! as return ed & went to bed till 8.30. However I caught 14 fish in my nice pool after breakfast.

I stayed in that camp several days & on 22nd got a huge fat mail by my coolly from Handwara post-office. When I opened a letter from Mc Gray & saw it addressed from West bay, truly I said to myself the world is small. For in the same batch of letters was yours saying that you were leaving for that place on May 28th! So after all you could meet on that old familiar ground. It would be jolly both for you & them, having each other there. Didn't you find them very nice people. I daresay Clive has had some sport with him, as he is here now & he & I had many a friendly match at Leh. I have written him a long letter to go by this mail. Also to Macdonald. Bill, one to Lucknow & another to a chap out here, so I have done very well this morning.

I stayed in that camp till 25th, but had no luck with the black bears, though there were plenty about. Nearly every day we saw fresh marks of their depredations on the mulberry trees, but they are so very wily, & only come out when it is too dark to shoot. The evening before I left, there being a bright moon I went out after dinner, but people who talk of moonlight being as bright as day, have never tried to see

a bear & they rifle sights at the same time among the shadows cast by the moonlight among the trees, or they would shew differently. I tried luminous paint on the sights, but it was not a success as it only shows up when it is quite black dark.
We heard a bear grunt as we approached a mulberry tree, but his shadowy & rapidly moving form did not give a possible mark.
Next day, 25th, a long hot march to Awat kosla where I had left my boat on the 9th. On my to the fall in the river the boat had moved about 6 miles lower down, below the Pojue rapid. I camped close to where I had left the boat. The place is called Awat kosla. But I found it Al(w)at holter when I left it. I was so pleased at the thought of weighing off this jest on you that it quite enlivened me during the last few hot miles of my 16 mile march. However after a hot & hurried arrival, at 4 o'clock I felt a new man, & proceeded down the bank of the river & did about an hour's hard work chopping a lot of logs that had got jammed up by the bank in the shallows.
After that I had my usual evening tramp out after bear, so came back to a well earned dinner.
Next day we did the short march to the boats & I sent for & got another mail from you in which you wrote from W. Bay, having all got down safe & well. Yesterday I had a long day after bear. Climbed up the hills & had three big beats. By Jove it was hot. We had no luck. In spite of my 4 beaters & the row they made! This morning we left & are working our way back to Sunjan. It is not so easy just here, because the Pojue has fallen so much that we are constantly sticking on sand banks. Many thanks for letters & papers. Also for 7 lbs. 2 oz. of the Sun tobacco. It was good of him remembering my pipe & pouch. I have not smoked since leaving England. Good bye. Best love from

July 6th 04 Not far from Kolahoi mountain over 17,000 feet.

place Moraine Sar (about 12,000)

My dear Nellie

I hope I haven't missed a mail since last letter, but I have been going pretty hard, & am some way from a post office. I arrived to day at this place after a steep hill. I am quite on the snow levels & hope to get sled here here. About two miles above me S. is a snowy ridge which we crossed this morning & just under it is one of those beautiful little Himalayan lakes Moraine Sar - very dark & very cold. Tho the people say by a spring as well as by the snow from the great crags above it, right in front of my tent as I write. You can imagine it is pretty cold as the lower third of it, I suppose away from the spring is covered with ice. That was when I passed it at 1 o'clock, with a hot July sun shining. The other end of this 20 mile valley is closed in by the giant Kolahoi, a little higher than Haramouk. Tho I suppose 15 or 20 miles away he seems to tower up quite close, & now with the evening sun shining on his rugged peaks & great glaciers he is a beautiful & grand sight. Like Haramouk he has three main peaks, but clearly pointed. We had a thunderstorm & some rain here after arriving, so after lunch, as the tents & baggage had not yet come out up - I laid down under two coolies blankets & had a good sleep till 5 30. The rain wasn't very heavy & I kept quite dry. It is now 6 30 & a fine evening & I am writing this before it gets dark, as I have only a camp lantern which is not good to see by - Besides it will be very cold after sundown - even now with a thick waist coat & a great coat, my hands are pretty cold.

I see my last letter was written in the Pohru
river (a letter on). I posted it next morning,
June 29th on reaching Sopor. and I got up to the
Chenab Lagh at Sriniagar next day about 3 o'clock.
We had quite a gale early that morning on the
Jhelum, which rose in regular waves & we had to
tie up. however it did not delay us very long.
I went to the Library & the Post & got your letters
of June 9th from West Bay. From these I was glad
to find you were all fit & well, but sorry it was so
cold that you couldn't enjoy the place properly. I hope
the cold wind soon went away - so that you would all
be able to get out a lot & enjoy the sea air & the views.
I am glad you met the Grays & that you like them. I
guess you would. Their little dogs are all right
since last account from Lychnur. I shall soon see them
again now. I forget the name of their old nurse, but
she is a Dorset woman, with a good old Dorset name.
She is a pet of mine. also the birds. The boy sounds
a rather delicate. He is the apple of their eye, as they
not one. The old nurse used to make Miss Gray
laugh by talking of the United Providences, for the U. P.!
I'm glad to hear Sanders is coming to you for Hockey
you will like him. I didn't stay
long at Sriniagar as I wanted to get in another
shoot in my class, last warning leave. So I left
again on July 2nd up river for Islamabad direction.
I hadn't been up above Sriniagar before. I first
intended to shoot from Islamabad, but decided there
would not be time, so took a shikari from Sriniagar
& went up the river about 20 miles to a place called
Awantipora from which I was going to march into the
mountains, as the shikari swore he could get me on
decent game in 2 days. The afternoon of 2nd on the
boat I spent in developing 2½ dozen films that I had
ready. I had never used my Kodak developing machine

which I got just before leaving Lucknow.
I am very pleased with it, it turned out some very
good negatives, & it is such a score being able to work
in the day time & without a dark room. My snow
photos of the day of the thunderstorm were as I
feared much over exposed (time exposures) but I will
be able to reduce them & make something of them.
Packed up on 4th & got away with the usual army
at about 1 o'clock. The country is much drier
above Srinagar than below & the valley not so water-
-logged, hence there are a lot of dry corn crops, & not
many of the well known water cooked rice fields.
Mosquitos at night are in consequence practically
absent. Below Srinagar & all about the Wooler lake
at this time of year they are a perfect plague. We had
a very hot & rather flat & uninteresting march of 12
miles to the foot of the hills. Some low wooded ground
on the right hand from one of the Maharajah's game
preserves. Shikar just they call it. My shikar game
he quite accounts of the amount of game there. He said
the garawars (animals) were as thick as the ducks
on the Wooler lake in winter, or as the fish in the
river, in thousands. I expect there are a good lot
of bears & stags there, but he doubtless was a little carried
away in his enthusiasm. He says nor & gram
perhaps when some big boss comes to see them. The Mehta
has a big beat with 2,000 coolies, & I expect they
get good sport. We passed another big nala
one of this preserves on the march here to-day. He
has a good many. Left ready for early start but
great difficulty in getting coolies, as a lot have been
taken away for work on a new canal to carry off
the Jhelum flood water above Srinagar. However,
got some by 11 o'clock & started seeing that my tents
& bedding were the first to go! We had a long & very

steep march to the top of the ridge, very jungly & strong in places. It is wonderful how these Kashmir coolies get along with their loads. We reached top about 5^{0}. & got a lovely view of the Kashmir valley spread out like a map! A wild, craggy spot, with no villages, but lots of good grass & some of the fairest forest trees. The rest of the baggage came that day, & eventually turned up early next morning. I was all right, but my two servants had their kit in tent, however I gave them a rug & dhurrie & a big waterproof sheet & built a big wood fire & they were all right. The coolies, as usual, wrapped themselves in their big blanket, their only possession as a rule besides what they stand up in! & were all right. Next morning while dressing shikari brought word that 3 black bears were seen on the precipitous side of the opposite face of the nala. So we organised a hunt (beat). The shikari & the coolies went round, a long steep way to drive, & the shikari & I went down the near side nearly to bottom. I suppose down nearly 1000 feet & very steep. However I was rewarded for after a time a bear came out opposite side fairly low down. I got a shot & hit him but not badly. He came up our side then up a small jungly ravine to my right-hand, I fired twice, but with no effect as the bushes were very thick & I only got a glimpse of him. We were a small cheerful, crowded, very steep group. Soon the shikari cried "look out Sahb", & there was the bear emerging from the bushes about 15 feet below him, & 2 below me. Growling & very angry. It was rather critical. The shikari said "Maro Sahb maro saab" (shoot, sahb) as he was in a pretty tight place & nearest the brute. I fired & hit him plump behind the shoulder & he rolled over & over down the steep & disappeared from view. The shikari followed & saw him lying down pretty well dead, a long way below. So gave him the coup de grace with a small shot. It was very exciting, you may guess. A fine full grown female with very good coat (black). The best cub the original three, but they went away. Good-bye, best love Tom

Dal Lake
Srinagar
July 18th 04

My dear Mother

Herewith the letter promised from Bij-Behara, in my short note. I see my last was from Mansar on 6th July, so I'm afraid a mail was missed but I was sorry to have so long, so much hard work, & I really hadn't any time to write, & I was 3 days at least from a Post Office! I'm sorry to say all my hard work for brown bear in the high nullas was fruitless. I saw tracks, & places where they had been feeding nearly every day, but was never lucky enough to lay eyes on one. Nor were my two chikaris, & 2 or 3 chikari cookies who were out night & early morn to the high slopes. However it was fun anyhow, & I hope for better luck next time. But I should like to have got at least one brown bear to show you. Thus ibex are a much more handsome than the black, tho' the horns of the latter are very fine specimens. I have got the latter are very fine specimens. The first one has just been bought ready, & the head looks ALL with the skull & head cut up & the half open mouth with its big teeth. Your last letter of which I got at Bij-Behara, dated 1st June 23rd, showed you had just returned from W. Bay. I was sorry to hear the north wind had been such a bad thing, you could not get out as much as you would have liked. Perhaps next year you should go a little later? I hope you have got your throat all right before this. The King also turned up all right. I was much interested in the Golf. It is rather a revelation to see our Amateur Champ. beaten by Travis an American. Truly they seem able to take the lead at everything. That's what it is to be a new country. We are too much bound down by tradition, in games, education, war & everything

whereas new countries, like America & Japan have not the traditions of an ancient civilization to hamper them, & just go straight ahead with all the latest improvements. I think if Rhodes had left that big sum of his to have had a certain number of intelligent English boys & young men educated & trained in America, he would have done more solid good for the empire than by founding colonial boys to be educated at Oxford & Cambridge - effete institutions, absolutely behind the times, & in the second-rate now of educational universe here. If we go on in our blundering way there's no doubt we'll come in for a nasty check some day when we least expect it. As an example contrast Bradley with his bull at a gate methods at the passage of the Tugela, with the hobbly knotted nothing left to chance tactics of the Japs at the forcing of the Yalu. But I must check my moralisings for something I hope more interesting. (And all the trade accounts of an American running are fully checked). One word however before leaving the Indy question. I want the Sun, with part of my pay, to send me out One Spalding's Schenectady Aluminium Butter. They cost 6/6, & are obtainable from A. G. Spalding & Bros. 53-55 Fetter Lane, E.C. If he sends them a postal order to cover price & carriage. they could send it (properly packed) direct to me at Lucknow. Thanks in anticipation.

I got here from Raj Behara the day after I wrote yesterday moved from the chowa bagh about a couple of miles onto the Dal Lake. It's very beautiful. I have got a nice quiet shady pitch for the boat under some trees, right away from everybody, & have a lovely view of the lake opened out before me. Within sight are two of Jehangir's Pleasure gardens. the

Michat Bagh & the Shalimar Bagh, now great-
-pleasure places formally the places where the great
emperor & his mahal used to enjoy the dolce far-
niente. The water of the lake is pure, soft, warm &
clear as crystal - only the great amount of weeds keeps
me from plunging in, as the weather here is quite
hot & conducive to bathing. I feel the heat pret-
-tily after coming from the fine bracing temperature
of about 12,000 feet, down to about 5,000 -
This morning as soon as I got up, I went out, in pyjamas,
for a paddle in the small boat, manoeuvred a la
Canadian Canoe, & shot about 2 hrs before coming
back to bath & breakfast. This is rather a sad-
-time however, for I am getting ready to go - servants
& most of the baggage leave to-morrow, & I on 21st,
spending 23rd I hope with Bill at Ouchi. One does
not look forward to going to the deferred regions
again after the lovely climate up here. However I
hope the rains will have broken properly any way before
I get back - at present they are rather backward.
There could be no greater contrast than the height of
the Jhelum now & this time last year. It is now abs-
-normally low - the Chenab Bagh canal is a mere
stream, & I couldn't get out it by the upper gate
from the Jhelum into the domya - as they was only
about a foot of water at the gate, then time last
year there were 20 or 30 feet! There are very
few people here now, nearly all have fled to Indmarg
from the heat & mosquitoes. I roared over the
Sonaby incident - I expect she enjoyed the unprompted
excursion. I can imagine Mr. Jones' face of ab-
-solute astonishment at seeing his spouse as it were
forcibly torn from his grasp! I am glad to hear you

You have another good cherry year. Also that the new wall papers look so nice, I'm anxious to see them. I'm sorry the grass had such bad luck in the way of health. That hay fever of hers must be an awful plague. I'm glad you liked Tom so much, & I hope they will come to see you at Hadley later on. I saw some pictures of the Greek play in some papers at Cheltenham. Saturday fruit is coming on here well. The faithful Ismala (Floatman) has just brought me in some beautiful big peaches (3s a dozen) & some wild raspberries, to add to the stock of early apples, apricots & small plums which were already on the table. Vegetables are also in fine order here now. Beautiful potatoes, French beans, cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, onions, & cucumbers - not forgetting also good melons. The cucumbers grow to a great size & number on the Dal Lake floating gardens which are about to be cut away as may crop has only to hand a passenger boat to get what he wants! I hope the pressed flowers I sent were not all in pieces. I came across small wild carrots up there as well as lots of rhubarb. Regarding that last day's sport I wrote about when I bagged the bear. I really made a splendid day of it, for with a shade better luck, I should have bagged the biggest leopard I ever saw, the very same. It was this way. When we got back with the skin of the bear, the shepherd up there said that one of his sheep had been killed the night before - by a leopard. So I decided not to march as I had intended, but to spend another night there. We went to see the carcase of the sheep, only half-eaten, & the chikaris proceeded to build me a very excellent machan in a neighbouring tree. As it turned out, they built it a little too well. It was on a small

cleft mountain opposite. My machan was about 12 feet high in a big bud tree, & the carcase was about 10 yards up the opposite tree, so that I was a little below it. The shikari in my position & I took up our positions very quietly in the machan & I took up a position very quietly in the machan a little before 6 p.m. We took the extra precaution of tying up a young kid near the carcase, which by his bleating was to attract the leopard still more. We sat quiet as mice then, & at 6.15 it was getting pretty dark & I was afraid it was no use when the shikari nudged me gently & pointed up the opposite. Only a very small window had been left between the branches & leaves to look & shoot out of. As these leopards, unlike the bears, have very keen vision, as it happened the top of this window came a little lower down to allow of one's commanding the opposite for any distance above the kill. By very quietly leaning very far back, I was able just to catch sight of the leopard standing broadside on, on the opposite about 10 yards above the kill. He was evidently a little suspicious of our tree & did not seem inclined to come down. The little kid had ceased its bleating & struggling & was quite still. Try as I could, owing to the lower of the little window, I could not get the sights on the leopard. He turned a little as the 6 go away & the shikari whispered shoot in desperation. I leaned back as much as I could & let drive a shot, I despairing of the sights on. Naturally my shot went too low & hit the ground about a foot before him. I could have cried. It was such bad luck. Had he come 3 or 4 yards lower, or had the window of my tree been 2 inches higher I must have had him. He was a beauty. Stood out almost white in the dark. They call leopard sher up here, which in the plains

meanus tiger – & well they may if they are all as ~~big~~ as this, for he was as big as either of the tigresses we got in Nepal. Sick wasn't the word – I don't suppose I shall ever get such a chance again. He was a well known depredator among shepherds, & the foresters owned gladly being rid of his dead body. I'm glad to say the shikari saw my difficulty & the impossibility of getting a bead on – & he didn't groan & sigh, & mutter allah il allah, as some of them do when you miss. Had he done so, I think I would have shot him, & had his head stuffed! As it turned out I got no other chance of a shot at any thing during my hard walking & climbing of the next few days. It doesn't do to lose any chances in this thin air & long or short, you don't get many. I halted at Numwat Sar, the hala with the pretty lake in the 1st. & had it well searched for brown bear without success. In the afternoon I went up to see & photo. the lake. The cooly I was with wanted that I should not go right out close to the edge – as I wanted to. It seems they have a superstition about this one particular lake, out of the many to be found among the mountains. They say that it is inhabited by a huge nugger – crocodile that eats horses & men & anything that approaches the edge. The nature will go capers if eat his food near it. Of course its all rot, but they wring so hard at anything – and to please him I didn't either as it was not urgent, and it. The tradition may have originated in the lake being fed from below by a spring, which no doubt troubles the waters & has perhaps given the idea of some monster below.

Reached 10th hala & got to next hala. One day there – marched 10 to Hapum hala, where there was another pretty lake at the head. Here in the evening I saw some Bara Singha, Kashmir stag – high up the side of the hala. This is the close season unlikely otherwise I might have got one. There was a beautiful stag. After climbing one day to 15th at the lake till 13th I had to chuck it & come down to 12 & 10 & 8 & 5 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 & 17 & 18 & 19 & 20 &

Dilkusha
July 28th 04

My dear Mother

This mail day finds me back again at the old spot. I left Simagar 4 am on 21st & tonga'd all day up till 8 stopping night at Domel Dak Bungalow - left there at 4 am. & reached Murree midday - left there 2 & got to Bill's Bungalow at Pindi about 6 - pretty tired & short of sleep! I found him very fit. We dined that night at the Rawal Mess with John Connor, one of my battle Brume mates, at Wardwal with me, was also there. They have a good mess, I breakfasted there next morning & saw it all. Lunched at the mess where Bill lives, & dined at the Club. This was very cheery, as everyone dines there on Saturday night, & they had a band, & it was fine enough to dine outside. It was a jolly evening. Pindi is very fairly cool, & the air fairly dry. Left 6 am morning 24th & got here 8.30 - 25th. Good & quiet journey, & not hot, as the sky was cloudy & the monsoon well established. Found all fit here, only 6 besides the S.M.O. had not very much sickness. Everything fresh & green & vegetation luxuriant & grass rank & growth very different to the brown bare place I left. It rained pretty hard all 25th. 4½ inches fallen in the 24 hours up to 8 am 26th. Yesterday I went out shooting in the afternoon with two other

Pouches & Brown - we had good fun 8½ couple
quail - 2 partridge & a pea hen - But it came
in a steady pour about 5 & we were soon wet to
the skin with nice warm rain - & had to find many
woollen wraps - It rained all the way home &
has just now 3 pm stopped for the first time.
Another 4 or 5 inches I expect. However it has
compensations, as it is cool this steaming - I was
glad to get your last letters just before leaving Sorgun
but naturally much upset to hear about poor May.
As you say however it was not much of a surprise
to me - Do you remember who we went with her to
see Dr Clay Jan (I hope) that it was only hysteria
Dr said) & he shook his head & said it was a
mental case - That was 14 or 15 yrs ago so
perhaps we should feel glad she kept as well as she
did for as long as she did - I am very glad you
have Mr Hetet to advise you & hope long ere
one of the arrangements he proposed has been carried
out satisfactorily - I am very glad at any rate
that she was away from home, as it would have
been most trying for you & the girls - It is bad luck
but it can't be helped - I hope your throat is now
better - I am rather concerned about it lasting so long.
In the last to recommend flying to a specialist, & I
have every confidence in Clowes - but if it is not better
when you get this, you might after speaking to Clowes
go & see a London special man. My old friend
Arthur Cheatle, Harley Street, the ear cold cases
fiend at number, would gladly see you I know - He
is specialist for ear & throat, but it be all a long
board till Clowes what I have said here - I hope
it may not be necessary, but in case it is I enclose a
line for you to send to Cheatle if arrangements are
now to go & see him. If throat better don't use the
letter. Hope Eyes & Ears all fit. Many thanks all
letters received & have read twice over soon.

Lucknow
August 4th.

My dear Mother

Here is mail day quickly round again so here with the usual scrawl. I was glad to hear from you last letters, about July 6th that your throat was really improving. I hope it is quite better before this, but if not that you have used by letter to Cheatle. It was sad news hearing about Mag's removal, & Elsie must have had a real hard & trying time. It was a good thing she was available, as neither you nor the Jim could have done it. It was a pity Bill and I were both away, as one of us would have done it. Anyway it would have been an unpleasant task, & Elsie deserves great credit for carrying it through so well. I hope now may bill be happier there, & that the regular management may benefit her both in health & mind. Please give her my best love & wishes when you write. What sort of a place is it a private branch of a public institution, or what? I hope she is really well & comfortably done there. If any more money is needed to ensure this, I can & will gladly assist. I'm glad Sanders turned up to cheer you all up & help Elsie through the worst of Fenley, which seems to have been a real good one. It was a bad luck that you were not able to go. I heard from Sanders last mail, he seems to have enjoyed his visit very much. I'm glad he was able to show you the photos I took. I'll send you the Stereoscopic (double) ones when I come home. They make all objects stand out in the most lifelike way & quite spoil you for other photos. I am busy developing those I took in Kashmir - with my Kodak developing machine, which is a great invention & does away with the necessity for a dark room. As a small unventilated dark room, full of mosquitos, would be unbearable this weather, the

machine is a great boon - & for snap-shots it turns out almost perfect negatives - I shall get some very good prints. Even so, at this time of year, it is working under difficulties, as you have to use a lot of ice to keep the water down to between 60 & 70, so as not to injure the film. I did three dozen the day before yesterday & have about as many more to do. I have got my hyaena & wild cat skins back to day. They are very good. I am getting a tin lined box made to take them & the two bear skins & will then send them all home to you, as this dampness is bad enough for skins. They still have the heads on, eyes, etc complete, & look very well. They are too good to walk on for rugs, I think, but would look well over a chair back or sofa. Or if you have no room for this you might lay them on the floor of Bill's room, or somewhere to be out of the way. I will put a lot of camphor with them & hope they will arrive dry & in good condition. I put them out just now & took a photo of them. I heard from Bill Gilmore last week, he was fit & asked to be kindly remembered to you all & the Wheelers. He hopes to get home next year. The whole programme isn't set yet, but I have reason to think that I shall get home in January, as I have had a wire & a letter from two different majors of the Corps, asking me if I would like to exchange from Jan to October, as they want to go home later in the hoofing season. I didn't catch on, as I should miss the good months here & come in for all the bad weather months at home - besides coming home late in the season might possibly make a year's difference in coming out again. Not much doing here - no rain for a couple of days, so it is very warm & steamy.

With best love to you all forever Tom.

Lucknow
August 18th 04

My dear Mother

I must make sure & not miss the mail this week. It isn't a thing I often do, but it happened last week. I came over from breakfast fully intending to write, but started developing some photos which took me a long time, & the fact of its being mail day quite slipped me. It was till I was coming back from Hospital next day that it suddenly occurred to me that I had not written. I wired to Grindlay, Simla to write you & hope you got a note from them all right.

Do you know that you were still in the last letter which I got, one week late, addressing your letters to Srinagar! It was dated Reading, July 19th & my leave was up July 26th. Your last weeks one must have gone there too, as I haven't got it yet! I was glad you were all pretty fit, & that Jane thought was really getting better. Who is that Mr Roberts? is he a local specialist of Reading? If it does not get quite well soon, act on what I wrote about seeing Cheatle. I hope soon to hear that it is really quite well. You didn't say anything about Mary. I hope you get good account of it from her, & that she is really comfortable & well looked after.

I have got the two bear skins, also 4 black buck skins, the hyaena & wild cat. also a carved table, & some copper things, all packed up & hermetically sealed in a tin lined

& hope to get them off almost at once.
I expect you had better get a tinsmith or such like
come in to open the box, as it will be rather a job.
I put a lot of camphor in, & hope the things will
arrive in good order. I sent the table because it
is better away from here in the rains, & I filled
up with copper things as it will be the legs for me
to bring home when I come. I haven't heard
yet officially, but the list of tri-anefots is out
& I see there is one leaving about January 7th
I daresay that will be mine. I had a trip
on Sunday night to Gorakhpur, about 12 hrs by
rail, & then 5 stations further to a place called
Dharanda, to report from a medical point of
view on the suitability of a site selected for
Gurkha recruiting depôt buildings. I condemned
it without mercy, as it is practically a swamp
in the rains. We are still having rain every
day, with a sort of forcing house temperature
& unfortunately the rain generally comes in the late
afternoon & prevents me getting out for rides, tennis
golf, etc. Some energetic souls got up a Rugby
football match the other day - & played in a
sloshy swamp. A couple including Pritchard got
their eyebrows cut open. I have just got an old
pony from Bill on Arials. He marched all the
way from Pindi, two months walk! He is in
poor condition now, but will be all right - & I
think a great pet. Pritchard got a small black buck
the other day for a pet, but it died the first night!

Besides the Grays two dogs, I have also a parrot, which up to date does not show much sign of tameness, or talking.
Penny & Rock are just back from Kashmir, looking very fit. They did a lot of walking & climbing, & had a glorious view of Nanga Parbat - from a distance of only about 10 miles. The station is fairly peaceable & quiet.
I'm glad Mrs Stewart is all right - but very sorry to hear about Tom. I had no idea that he had fallen into such a depressed state. I hope the poor little chap will buck up & get settled all right. You ought to get him to reading for a bit of a change but I suppose you don't know where he is.
Glad Chalf is fit & well - give him my best love.
In case Harry Thompson would come like a shot for boating, if he could get away. He is very keen on boating of all sorts & a great waterman.
Glad to hear you are all going to the Bay the, it will do you a lot of good - give my love to them all.
Sorry the Sew. had the bother of changing these mortgages, & hope the new ones will prove as good & satisfactory as the old.
I have sent some of my negatives to Rourke to be printed, they ought to give some excellent pictures. Nearly all my negatives have come out very well with the Kodak machine - with the help of plenty of ia. Best love to all - ever your Tom

Aug 25th
Lucknow

My dear Mother

Mail day smilly round again, as heretofore the weekly report. I was glad to get his letters one from Kashmir & one direct, during the past week, & to hear that you were progressing well, tho' sorry that the boy had had a passing attack of sickness, no doubt due to the heat. I'm glad Chick was so well & hope she had a good time at Reading. Tell Elsie I will be glad to give a thick um £1 to perpetuate the memory of good old T. B. in a suitable tablet. Ask the Sec to let her give it out of my money. Tell the Sec I got the Med. Directory circular, & have corrected the address, & added the hetley things. I don't think War Services go into the Directory - but I must see to their being correctly entered in the big army list when I come home. It has not been at all abnormally hot this season in India & the rains have been very regular since the latter part of July & have kept the temperature very equable. To day is bright & I assure you very steamy as the air & grounds are pretty well saturated. You can wring plenty of water out of your shirt after an hour's tennis in the morning! I hope you will get the Bear box all right in due time. I have despatched it, carriage paid. I'm sorry Chic had such bad luck with her party for Gosy regatta - it seems the usual thing

of that fixture. Perhaps the Sec^y has neglected to send the clerk of the weather a free pass. I have got 21 of my stereos (double) photos printed. They have come out very well indeed & I viewed them in a stereoscope & got quite like the real thing. I have sent the rest to be done also. I will print a few of the best to send you when the weather get cooler. & you will see them all when I come home. Yesterday & I went out the other day in hopes of shooting. We took a fishing rod, rifles & guns, but in fact, antelope or pheasant & grouse. But we didn't get any thing. But I saw something I never saw before namely porpoises in fresh river water, about 1000 miles from the sea! Real great big hog like porpoises just like we saw at West Bay & as one sees them in the Indian ocean & everywhere. There were 3 or 4. I had a shot & hit one but didn't of course get him. The Government runs into the Ganges & the Ganges into the sea, but its a long track! Bruce has been down with dysentery once, bad luck, but he's getting a little better. Stark & I are playing Khayal & the Civil Judge this afternoon at Foll. W. P. Medicine v the church. We hope to tie them up. Not much doing here. But tennis is popular when the weather does not prevent. Hope you'll have a good time at the mag tho. My best love to them all. I've had a pair of boots & slippers made for me of my cured Sambhur (deer) skins & an old alpaca overcoat & some cartridges bags. The good soft leather is

Sept 1st '04

Dilkusha
Lucknow

My dear Mother

A few lines on the feast of St. Partridge, which no doubt will find all the Brains at Widworthy. You had news about poor Dora. Gave me an awful shock! It was so unexpected. I knew she had been very ill, but hoped she was better. Poor Uncle F. What a terrible blow for him! & she was such a ripping good sort. I was looking forward to seeing her again soon, as she was always so cheery & full of spirits & so kind. I am very glad you all got to the Mythe, & I'm sure had a jolly time there, with the kindest of people. I hope it did you all good, & that you have quite got rid of your throat trouble. I am very sorry to hear that this is the Brains last season at Widworthy. I hoped they would have the good old place for several years longer. I hope they will have a bumper year to finish with.

We have a heat in the rains here, & it is very hot & enervating. Two of our chaps Pinder & Steele are sick in Hospital, so there is a good deal of work. I went out shooting for a bit on the 29th & shot, two teal, & a peafowl, & missed two snipe. They are coming very early this year. I never before went out here after duck, teal & snipe. I think till well into October. I saw my friends the porpoises in the Ecrute again. I hope they're getting on all right. The Butter has not come yet but will soon arrive. I expect Lam Jemson & Golf are shall the order of the day. No more news & it is getting late so bye bye –

With best love to you all & ever Tom.

Dilkusha,
Rochford

Sept 8th 04

My dear Mother

I am writing under difficulties, as it is so dark I can hardly see - altho' only about 2 pm after a long break in the rains of about 12 days - it rained very heavily again yesterday - & this morning it is still so cloudy & overcast that the inside of the Bungalow is quite dark. However by moving to the doorway I have just got light enough. It is pleasantly cool after the rain, a change from the very hot & relaxing weather we had while the rains held off. The rain yesterday effectually stopped all exercise in the afternoon, as it didn't stop until dark. To day will probably be the same. Pinches & Steele are still in Hospital & working plentiful - I am doing the Special Wards, the mess & the Plague - of which we have had 2 or 3 very early cases. I was very glad to find from your last that you were all still enjoying pleasant times at the Bay, & that the change had done you all good. The garden from your poetic description must be very lovely, flower & flower & flower an, yes a peacock if not too old is very good eating, white flesh like a turkey - A pea chick is excellent. I am glad Elsie is going to give us a sketch a hand-porch. That must be a pretty place at Woda Bay where they went. Very little going on here. A tennis tournament has just been struggled through. I heard from Bill who is very fit. Hope you found the garden nice on your return. Absolutely no news.

Best love to all I remain Your Son.

Sept 15th '04 Ramc Mess
Del Rusho.

My dear Mother

Hope you are all going along as this leaves me. Truly again after reading your last think I that the world is small. Lambert Lack & Arthur Heath were both cotem pranies of mine at Kings. When advising a consultation, I thought of both these but finally decided on Heath, as the one that I knew most intimately, though Lack is if anything the more eminent man of the two. He is right at the top of his profession, & it would have been impossible for you to have seen a better man. When I saw his well known name, I felt quite comfortable. I haven't seen him since leaving Kings where he was some time in "Chambers" with me. But I am familiar with his writings, & with the great name he has made for himself. He was always of the slow, solid sort. But very sound & very sure. A good collection of S words. Tell Elsie I don't think much of that Photo. except for the Eye who has come out well. I hope your throat does not bother you at all now. & that the cyst has gone. A cyst is a little membranous bag whose nature varies according to its contents, which may be watery, or semi fluid, or consisting of sebaceous gland secretions. The commonest kind is the sebaceous cyst or wen, which often attains a large size on the head or face. It is due to the burying of the orifice of a sebaceous (something

like a sweat) gland, & the consequent retention of the secretion. Of course I could not tell the exact nature of yours without examining it — but that is the general idea of a cyst. I'm glad you all had such a good time at the try the. You must have been sorry to leave. I expect the Guv & Franks & Joe B. had some great old bucks together. Not much doing here — another break in the weather on & it is rather hot, but not as bad as the last one. & the good time is getting fairly near now. I went out with Brown the other afternoon & shot one trap (Saturday last). Then we went on to the Commti to fish. We saw some large fish Rohes, but couldn't catch one. My big mare jibbed at starting coming back & delayed us a good deal. Hope Elsie had a decent time at Wes chester House & was able to cheer up the bereaved ones a bit. The Schenectady putter turned up all right & I used it yesterday. I think it will be a success. Thanks for sending it. I enclose a sort of a shopping bill for the box of skins etc. Pritches is convalescent, but still in Hosp. Steele is going on fairly well. His father lives near Clifton. & is in medical charge of the Hoe-field depôt (retired Colonel Hance). The rest of us are keeping all right. Hope you found the garden & house nice on your return. Hope Mervin & Jessie are all right after their holidays. Best love to all yr ever Tom.

Lucknow
Sept 22nd '04

My dear Mother

Hope this will find you all fit & well. Glad to get your letter of about Aug 30th & to hear that you were all flourishing. Glad you got the wire all right from Sundhay. The weather is beginning to improve a little, but we have had some more heavy rain; altho' at Mathura, it is still a bit hot & steamy. Our new D. Mrs. has just come down from the hills. Colonel Leake, a very small dapper quiet little man. Came here to the Dak bungalow Bombay, having come here from his old spot Workwich. He seems a very nice little man, with a wife of his own; which is a good thing to see in one's posh. I hope you all had a good time at Wolverhampton & that the weather was all right while you were there. I'm glad to Fletcher has got an old servant for housekeeper to carry on with.

"Tell the Ba" "bankit reef" is the ordinary S. African gold reef, all about Jo'burg is bankit. Instead of big quartz reefs, the reef is more like plum pudding, the quartz in lumps embedded in a hard mortar like substance - from which latter the gold is crushed.

"Jalking" means pulling down gold bearing quartz or diamonds as the case may be, then getting prospectors to find them thickly in the spot where they look & then write a glowing report of the prospects of a farm or property. I was interested to hear that the Cuelings were at Streatley again. I should like to have been there to help do the river. Perhaps

next summer if I don't get sent to some beastly
out of the way station.
I'm very glad to hear that Mrs Curling is so well
recovered from her very severe illness
I'm glad to hear the garden has done as well this
year for fruit. The last that Dick gave makes
boys mouth water.
I have had a waistcoat, pair of boots, clippers &
gaiters made from one of my big eared deer skins.
Golf is booming here just now as the ground is
at present in very good order.
I saw my name in the paper yesterday as down
for relief this season, but no date as yet.
Thanks for the Diary which turns up regularly
No more news. Best love forever Tom

Dilkusha
Sept 29th 04

My dear Mother

Near the end of another month, & the cold weather right handy, the trooping list is out. My transport is the Sudan leaving Bombay on the 27th December! So that's all right – not a bad time to leave – I shall get 3 months cold weather here – & escape most of the winter at home. Rock, one of the chaps in the mess, goes by the boat after mine. Sandy Stables is down for the 1st boat, next month, but is trying to get on Wit, as his 20 years is up in January, & he is leaving the service, as soon as he finish his home out here. Sir Henry Conway he is leaving & tried to put him off it, but he says he is not doing it in a hurry, but determined long ago. He has, I think a widowed mother at home in England, who wants him, & they are well off, I think. I shall try for old Woolwich again. I heard from Macdonald the last week, he said he hoped I was among them. He has taken a house with him at Blackheath. The house has not been reopened yet.

This will amuse the Sur. Old Padre Kluge, the military chaplain here pinched an opening off the Civil Chaplain the other day. It was thus were. The Civil Chaplain, on leave in the Hills asked Kluge if he could take his evening service for him. K. consented. & found he had to take his own a parade as well, as the Civil one was away also. When he arrived at the church a brilliant thought struck him. Parson & O'Regan both from Military

Church. Why not have an offertory for Military Church Organ fund. So he announced that the offertory would be for that good purpose & the offertory would be for that good purpose & preached in aid of it. By his eloquence he managed to extract a very good bag of Rs 59/-. Oldham the Civil Padre was pretty sick when he came back ahead of them, but old K. wouldn't give it up, so they referred the matter to the arch-deacon & he supported K. For he said that the money was collected for a certain purpose & therefore whatever happened Old Ham couldn't have it. If K. didn't have it for his Organ the only way was to return it to the donors, which would have been a difficult task. Rather cute of old K.!

For Jos is out of Hosp. & rapidly convalescing. Steele is still bed. a very long case!

I was glad to get your letters (& Kay) & to find that all were flourishing. & have a good time at the Ork. It is awfully rough luck on Tom being so awfully deaf. I hope Edith & Nora are all right. The table I sent with the chairs is a very pretty carved walnut table. The work & got back out here on the rails, so I got it away. It is in two pieces & easily put together.

I was very glad Elsie went to Winchester House, & you have a lot of, & that she found U. 7 & L. in fairly good spirits on the whole. It is rough on them, & they must feel it frightfully. Please send my very best love to them both. & I hope to see them before very long. Getting gradually a little cooler here & a few people are returning.

Best love to you Tom

Dilkusha
Oct 13th '04

My dear Mother

Glad to hear you were all well on Sept 19th from your last letter, which with the King turned up all right. Glad you met the Bartons, I still thought a lot of him I know. I hope you will be all right now you have got rid of that tooth.

I was very sorry to hear about Mays health. Her chest seems to be the trouble, & she is apparently again getting into the condition she was in when you took her to Quarayat one time. However any way it is nice to hear she is in such good hands, & that they take such good care of her. Dr Whites old friendship with L. Flotel is a great thing; as it gives him extra interest in her case.

I am glad to hear Elsie has got most of the money for the I.B. memorial. No doubt Hunks will easily make up the balance. It was very interesting her finding out the old house where I.B. used to live at Kew, & what a jilly old place it must be from her description. Glad she was able to initiate Flotel & L. in the mysteries of punting. Not much on here - weather cooling very gradually. I still have my punkahs night & day. Sunday & I went out for a couple of hours shooting on Saturday only got 5 snipe. People are returning now in a bit. There is to be a regatta at end of the month, also a small Race meeting. Bennett and my own chap is back from Somaliland. Enjoying in a good deal of sport. I wish I had a chance of some nice shoots with the Grays again this cold weather. No more news. Best love to you all everyones Tom.

Oct 20th. 00

My dear Mother

I can hardly express what a shock I got from the sad news of your last letter. For tho' I judged from your previous letter that she was in bad way, tho' she had been reduced very low on a former occasion & had come round all right – I did not apprehend the worst.

But as you say I have no doubt it is all for the best & that she is happier now, with all her doubts, suspicions & delusions set at rest.

You will by this time have recovered from the immediate shock, so I will not say more, as it will only be opening the one shock – & I am sure you all well know what my feelings are without further expression. I was very glad she was well enough when you saw her, to send her love to Bill & I. I shall cherish that last message.

One word more – I hope she has got a nice headstone put up – please ask the Sec to put the balance of the £ that he holds for me towards getting to defray the cost of it.

Here the weather is now cool & pleasant & the cold weather season is setting in. & people are returning in numbers to the Station.

I am very fit & I hope you all are also. I have not heard lately from Bill. I expect he is still on that Chital relief column. I will not write further this week, but with very best love to you all I will now stop. Ever Tom

Oct 27th

My dear Elsie

I'm afraid amidst other things I have overlooked your birthday & that this letter will be a bit late. But here's wishing you the best of everything & many happy returns any way. Glad to receive all letters & to find you all pretty fit & by the time I hope all pretty well over the shock of the event which has saddened us all. I was very interested to hear the account of the closing ceremony, & was glad to hear so many of the relatives were able to attend. I hope the mater's neuralgia is better & that she is picking up altogether now. I got a letter from Lambert Lack last mail in answer to one I wrote. & was very pleased to hear that the cyst was a benign one & the retention charged for which I described in a former letter, & not a thing he worried about in the least, except mis-ment as it causes some purely local inconvenience. Glad the Negro shrine, etc, turned up all right. Yes that is a Ladakh praying wheel. Thank the mr. much for the cuttings about Randfontein & Bapma. Glad you have been getting some fish. The country here is getting pretty good. I have seen it several times. There is a small race meeting & some polo on this week. It's still very hot in the daytime. Many thanks for the Pling. I have sold a good many of my goods & chattels already. No more but love bale ever yours Tom.

Del Lusha
Nov 3rd 06

My dear Mother

I was glad to hear from you letter of about Oct 18th that you were all pretty fit & that you were gradually getting over your bad troubles. & I hope the nenralgia has now quite gone so that you can get your proper sleep & pick up your former health again all right. I am glad the box & contents turned up all right – they are some nice things. I wonder if the tigers are ready yet, which we sent home to be done. I think you mention looking after that. We had heard that Jim Taylor was probably going in Dec^r, we hope that Sir J. Galloway who is at present C.M.O. & Order in Council was at home on leave, will get the post. We trust there is no truth in rumours of an outsider like Jewes being brought in. I am glad the King is interesting himself in the new R.C.H. Sandy Stables is up here staying with me. He leaves the service in Jan^y – Yes or leaving, visiting his old haunts & have hopes to get some good shooting. At present we are also putting in some golf. The small race meeting last week was rather slow, but some of the races were pretty good. Dec 27th is the date of my boat. The weather now is A1 – it got cold from Nov 1st & we are just getting into blue serge kit again. There is a bit of a regatta this afternoon but it is a small affair to what it used to be in the old days. So I have sold nearly all my things already. Best love to you all. Your loving

Tom

Nov 10th 06

My dear Mother

Here with the weekly return, which I trust finds you all fit & well. I was very glad to get your letter of about Oct 18th & to hear you were all pretty fit, & I was very glad to hear you were not having any more tooth ache since the 2nd lot of teeth were extracted. I hope that you are getting on the shoplessness alright also, it is a beastly complaint. Fred Uncle Jack came to see you, he is a cheery chap, please send him a all his very love. Steele is now all right & goes home on sick leave on the next transport leaving here ten or a day or two & reaches P. 15th. He is very pleased to get home. Le Cheseme an old Rochester has just come again for duty, from England. I think the transports get home in 3 weeks. I was glad to get Isabel's kind letter which I am answering this mail. I also got one from Mrs Gray written from Bude. She had been very busy looking after a favourite nephew, ill with complications after Enteric, but he had just died when she wrote. They are going to winter at Bude. She spoke of having met Jan at W. Bay & intending to see you at Reading afterwards. She says ma the writer is drawing on they are thinking longingly of the Khasi jungles (where I had a jolly time with them last year. I'm glad to hear that Bel Gil

is doing so well. Sandy Stables is still here & I like having him so very much. We go out for a bit of a short about every second afternoon to get in golf on the other days. He is a great little chap & full of life. a little stiffer than he used to be on account of rheumatism. We got 12 fine bird shot yesterday afternoon. & 15 couple of bags last Saturday. Is Bill back yet from the Central column? I haven't heard from him for a long time. It is still keeping hot in the day time, but the nights are cool & we went into Mess Tent on Monday. I hope Bill may be able to come for the Army Cup which is at end of this month. I have sold my big mare & now have only my small pony. I miss the mare much for my shooting drives - as we generally go out 8 or 9 miles or so. Hodgson who was out to Africa in the beaver corps & with Mobely & I has been ordered to this district. He is married so will not probably stay in Lucknow. The gardens are looking nice here now. roses are very plentiful at this time of year. Thank for King which turns up every week. Hope Elsie is shaping to the Court. Great manoeuvres on 40 miles from here next month. pretty well all the garrison are going out. I have got some more Lucknow clay figures to bring home. I hope they won't all get smashed. Best love Bill

Ever yours Tom

Dilkusha
Nov 17th – 04

My dear Mother

Many thanks for letters & news. Glad all pretty fit. Hope you are scoring off that wicket & getting proper sleep by now. If Si can come he'll be all right again. So I never met Winkfield. I'm sorry to hear those Rightest Socialist people are getting in for Reading Town Council. Glad such cons as Dighton are getting the upper hand. This is horrid! I hope George & May come down & enjoyed their visit. Tell the girls I am sending the 5/- to Lawn Tennis in Madras. Glad Clare heard from Mrs Stuart. I hope Jon will come all right again. Lady Hobhouse left yesterday for Bombay to see some people, but he is coming back again. I hope to get Bill here for the race week which begins about 23rd. There are a good many side shows. Polo Sandow – Circus. Theatricals – concert. Horse show, besides the racing so it should be rather a lively time. I hope you are having nice weather so that you can get plenty of the open air which is one of the best things to make you sleep at night. Brown with his brand new wife is due back to-night. Their honeymoon has been short, only 10 days! Chatter & I had a good shoot last Saturday we got 43 wild duck & lost quite 25 more among the thick weeds & rushes. We had 2 leather shooting boots out. Great preparations for the manoeuvres next month but it doesn't take me. Since last writing we have had a couple of days rain. Very unusual this time of year but it has made the cold weather go in comfort & has the golf links a lot good. Best love to all and yours

Son

Nov 24th 04

My dear Mater

Many thanks for your letters & King all safely received. I daresay Bill's missing letter turned up post mail - anyway I know he is all right as I have heard from him lately & he sent me a basket of Kashmir apples, which are absolutely top hole. I am very disappointed indeed that he is not here now for the race week, as I fully expected he would really be able to come this time. Stabbs is here again came back from Bombay 2 nights ago - & we are well in the thick of things. This is the first day's racing beginning at 2 pm & there are 8 races to get in. Two nights ago there was a most excellent concert. A Miss Joubert, daughter of a Colonel in the D.M.I. has the best amateur voice, method & training I have ever heard - as good as most professionals. She sang that "Pretty Mocking Bird" & her trills & runs high & low, soft & loud were simply marvellous every note absolutely pure, true & audible. Some of the things were also very good - especially some of the three little maids songs by a girl made up exactly like Madge Crichton & very like her in manner.

The last night Sandow was on at the Theatre his feats were A1. but the company supporting him was not up to very much - I had seen him before at home more than once, but he seems as good as ever. To-morrow there is Polo - & on Saturday & Monday more racing. There is a big Australian

circus on which we propose seeing to night & a big ball to-morrow, so that we are getting in a pretty full week. There are a lot of people on, so it should be a very jolly time, I think.

Saturday night – theatricals. The Chili Widow, Bindie has one of the leading parts. The weather is A1, not a bit too hot. Have been out shooting two afternoons lately – bag 18 & 9 snipe. I was interested to hear of Edith Wheeler's engagement. I hope he is a real nice chap & worthy of such a nice girl. Edie will miss her terribly when she leaves Reading. But I suppose the wedding will not take place just yet. Brown & his wife turned up all right after a 10 days honey moon at Bombay. She is nice looking & seems a nice girl. They have a lot of most ripping presents – silver, etc, etc. Our Xmas Sergt & Mary came along & that they were looking all right. Does he still go in for Cricket in the summer? Dis mny the Sun had a bit of trouble, but hope it soon got all right. I'm very glad indeed to hear that you are sleeping better, & I hope the insomnia will soon be altogether a thing of the past. Billy back at Rorkee all right – he wrote home from there. I must try & get up there for a day or two as the mountain will not come to Mahomet!

I must now (10 o'clock) prepare for the fray, as good bye & bless you all

ever yours Tom

Dilkusha
Dec 1st '04

My dear Mother

Many thanks for the budget of letters safely received. I was very glad to hear that you were sleeping better, & hope that now you are backing up all round. I am sorry to hear Aunt Ellen had been laid up with her chest, but hope she has got over it all right. We are quiet here again after the excitement of the week. The racing was very good & an absolute outsider Modesty, belonging to a good sportsman Major Stisted won the Army Cup. The dance, Chal Wedar & all the side shows were good. Now everyone is getting ready to go out into Camp for 3 weeks manoeuvres. Glad Chas had a good time in Inn & one at the Rundles. It is very nice here now & stable is just in a lot of shape & pretty. I must try & get up to Mhow for a day or two before I leave. They had a sacred concert on Sunday evening at the Civil Church in aid of the church Restoration deficit. It was very good. I will try & send you a programme. That pain Jordan I wrote of gave awfully well & conducted the choruses. I'll see you all now in less than two months. Hope to find you all fit & well. & I wish you all a happy Xmas & prosperous New Year.

Best love everyone
Tom

Thursday Dec 8th

My dear Mother.

Here's to wish you all a merry Xmas & a happy new year to come – I wish with luck you should just get this Xmas day, & I hope it will find you all fit & of good cheer. I hope you are now sleeping quite normally & not having to bother your head about any ailments, & be able to be quite independent of all noxious drugs as you were of old time. You say you've been having fogs & bad weather. Here the weather is now quite delightful – cool & sharp & cold nights. The manoeuvres are now on the infantry left by train today, the Cav & R.A having gone by march some days ago – I rode from Cawnpore yesterday, are joining the camp & there will be altogether about 10,000 men. Stables is still here & we get a lot of shooting. I hope Bill will come for a day or two, as I can't get away for owing to 7 going on manoeuvres we are very short here & lots of sick will be coming in. I'm glad Fenlo has come to see you & that he is fit & well. I am packing up my heavy kit now – as I want to send it by goods train about 10 days before I sail. The Station is now empty & a man is quite a rara avis! Stables & I are going down the bazaar to day, to see if we can pick up some copper & brass things.

No more news – See you all soon. Best love

Your Son

Delhousie
Dec 4th

My dear Mother

Received the weekly letter – & hope the family all fit & well. I was glad to hear from you letter of about Nov 22nd that all was serene. Many thanks for the muffler which turned up ~~after~~ & which will be very useful, also to Elsie for the bag, which is a little & quite the style & make. I like. The Davis baggage I shall probably get soon & it will be very acceptable – many thanks also. From the papers you seem to have had a very cold spell. I see the Scotch mail was ~~snowed up~~. It would be better anyway than the fog & damp. I've sent off my heavy baggage & shall probably leave by myself about the 23rd, so my Xmas day will be either in the train or at Deolali. We were surprised to get rather a heavy downpour last night. It's rather Xmas rain before its time. There are often 20 or 30 days rain about Xmas. Still it's very hazy & so am I, & I'm rather afraid we may not be able to meet before I go. But I hope he will be able to come if only for a couple of days. I'm glad Elsie saw the hedge eggs & Gathers, he's put the bag to them. I'm glad to hear Bill Gilmore is going strong & well. I hope he will be home next year. We had a dinner party last night at the Club about 18 in all, some ladies. It was very jolly & all enjoyed themselves. Among other things we played up the deafness & almost forgotten Mrs Jenkins & Sandy Stables & I are getting a day off to morrow to go to get some geese – near Raybaud's station, close to where I was in camp with the Guards last Xmas. All is pretty quiet here now. The manœuvres been all in pretty quiet here. Very best love & best wishes to all at home.

Very fondly Tom

22/12/00.

My dear Mother

Just a few lines to make my last letter from Lucknow. I sleep in the train to morrow fri day night & leave 6.15 next morning for Deolali where I have to arrive 3 days before sailing on 28th. It is a bad luck not going straight to Bombay as I could then spend a couple of days. As it is we have not been able to meet & I am very sorry. He has been too busy & I couldn't get away cos we were so short handed going manoeuvre time. Yes manoeuvre people are all just back & now it is too late. I am very sorry I couldn't see him. He has sent me a nice Rocker chair for use on board ship. However I hope he will soon get leave & come home. Sandy & I had a jolly day after the geese & we got six besides about a dozen duck & some pigeons. It absolutely poured on Saturday morning & we got soaked to the skin. We left on Sunday for another shoot in Sind. I was dined as a guest at our mess last night & had to make a speech which is not a thing I am fond of. Tonight I am going to Lawrie dinner to some friends. Now at the Club. I am awfully busy paying bills, packing & generally settling up. I can not write a long letter. I feel quite sorry to leave the old place, but of course I am awfully glad to get home & see you all again. Many thanks for letters & cheque. Glad you are now pretty fit. A lot of people are going out for Xmas months. I am looking forward very much to seeing you all. The weather here now is charming, everything is nice & the roses beautiful. Best love to you all

Ever yours Jim

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and have not been photographed.

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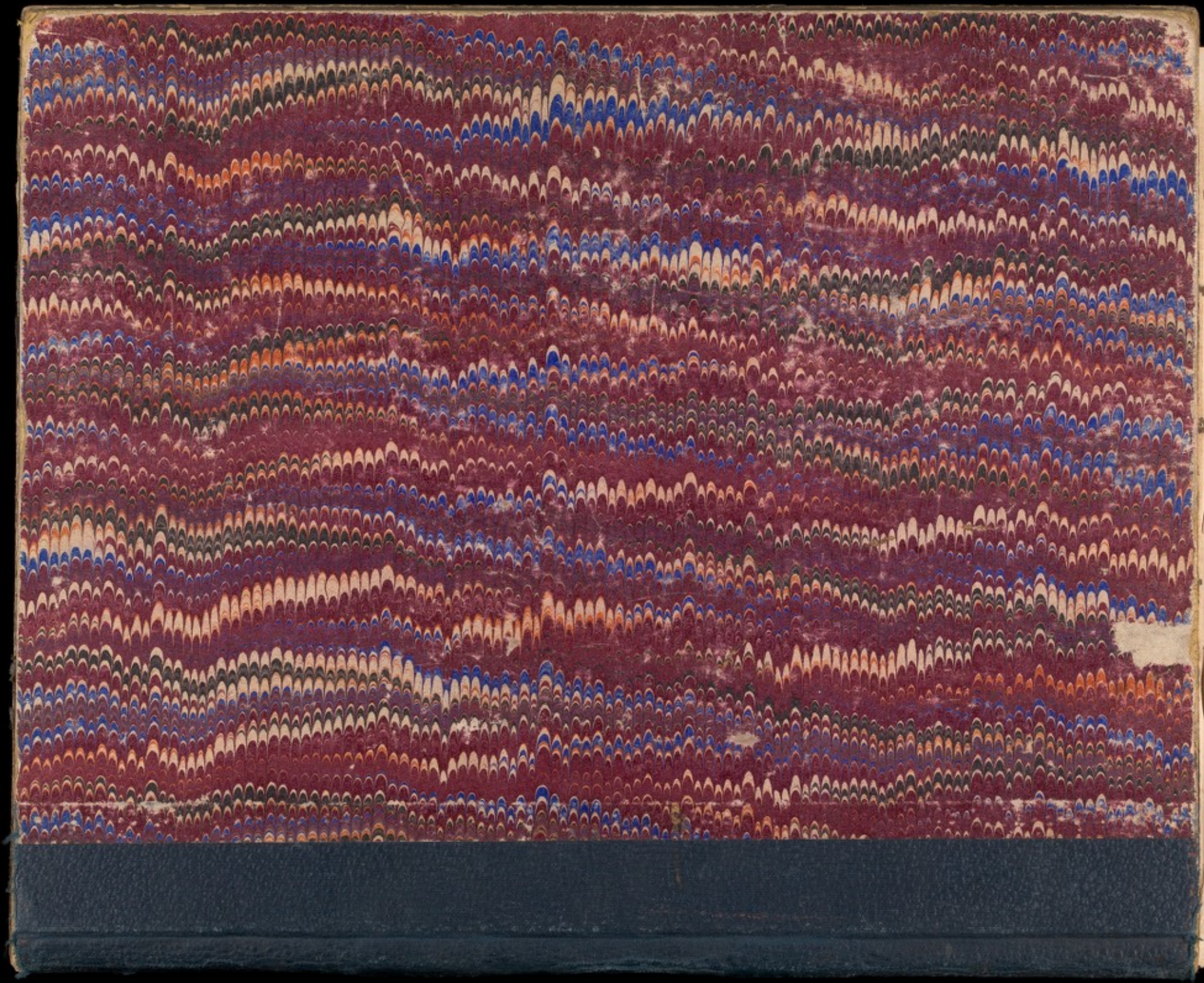

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