

Re
enlisting

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF MONTREAL

Montreal

10th May 1917

My dear Dad

I have your very kind letter of the 1st inst., with regard to my enlisting.

I came in to Montreal a week or so ago and was examined by the Medical Board as for infantry service. They gave me a rejection on account of varicose veins. They told me that puttees would put my legs out of commission and that therefore it would not be advisable for me to try for a commission in the infantry as I understand the junior officers wear puttees. They said I would in all

probability be accepted if I
could get a commission in the
artillery. I would prefer a
siege battery say using our 8"
shells.

I came in to Montreal today to
see Mr Gilman in regard to a
proposal that we should change
over our 8" shop to turn out
18 Pounder High Explosive. After
discussing the form our proposal
should take, Mr Gilman asked
me how I would like to organize
an inspection department for our
regular products and I told him
I did not feel that I could
do anything like that until
after the war on account of the
probability of my enlisting.

Poor Mr Gilman's father is
dying - unconscious most of the time -

and Mr Gilman was very upset
by my statement. He said he
was counting on me — that the
work would not run ^{by} itself, without
an executive and that I was
the only one he had any
confidence in for this work.

He said at any rate he would
not put in the 15 Pound proposition
unless he had my assurance
that I would start it and not
leave it until it was an
assured success in his opinion.

I said to put in the proposition
and if it is accepted I would
stay to see it running as above
mentioned. I do not think there
is one chance in five of the
proposition being accepted. I will
know by Monday next and
will write you. In any case
I am sure I ought to see

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Mr Gilman through his present
trouble and turn the Shrapnel
work over to him in good order
perhaps in five or six weeks.

- Perhaps now, we can't tell.
I am sorry if you are under
any inconvenience on my account.
I thought when I wrote you
that I could close up shop at
a moment's notice and you may
have to qualify the enquiries
you are making on my behalf.

But you think I should
write Hugh in a preliminary
way and ask him what the
situation might be regarding a
commission in a siege battery?
or some other form of suitable
active service at the front.

With much love

Your affectionate son

Edward S. Winslow