Longwood -
Combe Down
Bath -
April 18 - 1919

My dear Mrs Mallett

I ought to have written to you long ago - to thank you for the photograph of Ray - Marshall & Hazel — Dam so very pleased to have it — but for a long while my Father would not part with it because he liked it so.
It was just this time last year that Ray was stopping at Rainbow Wood — when we learned to know him & like him so much — & by the summer ~~also~~ we had got to feel him quite one of the family & look for his flying visits. His last visit was literally a "flying" one — only one walk & before his smash. I have thought so often how terrible it would have been had his visit to us cost him his life — we should have felt ourselves more or less to blame — as the children were always pressing him to come "in" his aeroplane - It was one of the great days of their lives when he really did come down out of the sky — as we had not really expected him to.
You must be very sad when the other sons come home to other mothers. The very fact that the fighting is over and others happy must make it all seem more cruel & unnecessary. The only mercy is that Marshall will not now be in danger. I wonder

if he will still come to England - I suppose not. And Hazel I should so much have liked to see them both, but Alberta is such a far, far country that there is not much chance of our ever meeting any of you.

I have just been reading an American book which has fascinated me - called "The Virginian" by Owen Wister I expect you know it. Of course Edmonton is very big & civilized now - but when you first went to Canada the country must still have been very much in its beginning We got Ray to tell us a good deal ~~out~~ about the country & the ~~children~~ were always cross-questioning him about the flowers - they were very excited to hear that spotted lilies were to be found growing wild amongst the scrub & grass. They in their turn tried to teach him the names of all the flowers in our own ditches & hedges - & then used to lay traps for him & try to catch him out. They were all so young & so happy together - it is dreadful to think he cannot come back to us -

I am enclosing some snapshots of the children taken just about the time when Ray was visiting us. They are not very good but the only ones I have of them so recently.

With kindest regards

I remain

Yours very sincerely

Margaret N. Ballett.