

July
1917



The guy who thought he could
smell gas

Mrs. John Wagner

Dobbinston,

Ontario,

Canada.



NOV 17 1930
DOD

Witley Camp, Surrey
July 8/17

Dear People at Home;

Rec'd your letter of
June 16th picture, clippings &
Bill enclosed.

They are some match
Bill & Mr. Vokes, she has a
few inches to grow yet before
she can measure up with
him. He ought to make a
good soldier, he must count
on feeding us good when he
had to get injured, or is it
himself that he is looking out
for.

How do you like the new
Mrs. Smith for a neighbour.
So the rhubarb is flourishing
this year. That rhubarb & pineapple
is good stuff. I have eaten
or helped to eat quite a few
tins of pineapple and I am

over. We get a good sized
tin for a shilling & we buy
that for two for a meal.

The hunt prospects seem to
be good this year over here
at least what I have seen.

They sell cherries galore
around here now, sixpence for
a paper of them. So day for
dinner we had a cherry pie
which was good considering our
army cooks but not a touch on
the old kind at home.

So Jas. Rushton had a
notion for nomination but I
heard he missed it. Well he
couldnt expect to get it & much
less the election against McDonald
when his two sons are at home.

I walked up from Mytchett
yesterday morning, was up at
ten o'clock four ten mile. We
thought we were through but it
came out in orders yesterday
for us to remain there so

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we have to go back tonight.
We were going to walk but
it has been misty and wet
so we are going to take the
five o'clock train. I was
hoping we would be there because
the Battⁿ is going to Longmoor
Ranges to shoot this week but,
no such luck now. They are going
to try and get a little shooting
with the 808 & 164 down at
Mitchell if we can. Shooting
is good sport, the best in the
army. I have been doing quite
a bit of shooting in the miniature
range and can find the bull
quite a bit easier than I used
to be able to, so I would like to
try the long ranges again.

Still the Hun planes are
doing as they like now seemingly,
I hear they smashed London
pretty bad this last time. Two
sergeants went up on fass

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from here somewhere and
when they get, get their things
were so rough looking they took
the next train back.

It looks as though we might
get the Kings. Leave now, a quite
a bunch have already gone,
the orderly room staff & the
squad are going this week.
If I get a four day pass I
think I will hit for Ireland and
around by Scotland. I would like
to travel about steady the whole
time and go as far as I can.

Abbeil Hagerman was over
here yesterday and expects to be
back this afternoon. He is just
the same as the last time I
remember seeing him, just as good
natured as ever. The commission
hasn't spoiled him a bit, he came
into the hut and sat around
just like the rest, sat here till
away after lights out.

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Lewie had a letter from Guil
this morning. He was back
at just bullets for awhile.
I don't understand why he
doesn't get more of our letters
when they are all addressed
alike. Lewie sent him a letter
just after he left containing
ten shillings & his identification
discs. Well we thought he
must not have rec'd it so
put a trace on it. It was
registered you see so yesterday
we got a letter back with the
other letter money and all & it
said "insufficient address" on
it.

We had a good time at
mythett last week. The most
fun we had was with a fellow
who was nearly ready for the
bug house. He went out one day
at noon & thought he smelt gas
so in he went and put on his
gas helmet.

Then he went around with his helmet on all dinner period, and if any body said anything to him he would say "Gas Gas". Then when he went out of parade he went out with the helmet on. The sergeant says "Go in & take that thing off". With that he fixed his bayonet and was going to defend himself. He had been sharpening his bayonet up for the last two nights so he had it in pretty good shape, so course everybody stood aloof. At last they persuaded him there was no gas so he took it off and then laughed at the look of him. He stood & sniffed for about five minutes for gas, he took a faint under his forearm he thought that was from gas. It was ^{not} a chemical affair I have seen for a day or two.

There were fellows in the hut down there that enlisted last of arch & April a year after us and two they are now up with us almost. Bob. is gone to the hospital again. Must close for this time. Better send me another five dollars in case I should need next pay for a pass. Love to all Russell